

# CLASS WAR

## Internationalist News and Analysis

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### **Brazil: Balance and perspective for the Bloc of Struggles for Education**

*The following is the English translation reprinted from our comrades of the Grupo de Trabalhadores Revolucionários (Revolutionary Workers Group of Brazil: RWG-BR):*



*Brazil: High school students protesting in 2016 (Global Voices)*

The Bloc of Struggle for Education (BLE) was created in 2015 following the announcement by the state government of Sartori to split the wages of public employees and in the course of a large mobilization of workers who held a historic general assembly with more than 30 thousand public workers. Eventually the state teachers union (CPERS), gathered more than 10,000 educators in the assembly.

In the face of this mobilization and the attacks by the government, a plenary session was called with militants and activists who were part of the Education Committee of the Bloc of Struggle for Public Transportation (BLTP), which in 2013 was very active in the fight against the increase of fares, occupation of the City Council and the June Days.

From this plenary, the Bloc of Struggle for Education was created, which, with the same character as the Commission, was aimed at bringing together activists, organizations, students, teachers and other workers in defense of education and against the government.

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### **Tankie WWP Rolls on Syria Solidarity International**

Friday, Bastille Day, July 14th saw five activists from Syria Solidarity International roughed up and ejected from the International Action Center's "Solidarity House" in New York. **Syria Solidarity International was there to denounce all imperialist interventions in Syria.** A member of the Communist Workers Group witnessed this goon drama.

In a gross violation of the workers' movement principle rejecting violence between tendencies, Workers World Party (WWP) members and their allies suppressed questions from speakers recognized to have the floor, even though the event was advertised as a public meeting. Readers can see and judge for themselves, as some of this violation was captured on camera phones, at "Syria activists ejected from Stephen Gowans talk" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxvIVgbQJLo>), and at <https://vimeo.com/226045088>.

With extraordinary forbearance, the Syria Solidarity activists had endured impossible pro-Assad whitewashing for the better part of an hour, as author Stephen Gowans delivered the first lecture of the national tour for his book "Washington's Long War On Syria," which is said to be published by a press connected to last year's Green Party Vice Presidential candidate, another Putinpal/Assad mouthpiece. No sooner had a pro-revolution activist posed a question about Gowans' unabashed bias when he was grabbed in a headlock. He was quickly pinned against the rear wall of the hall by 4 WWP men. A female Syria Solidarity member tried to defend him and was pushed and shoved to the rear of the room but not before she provided cover for the two women capturing the scene on their cell phones. The four identified, they were jammed into the elevator by

*Cont. pg. 16*

*For free quality healthcare for all  
through socialized medicine!*

### **Snakes Bite: Healthcare in Capitalist America Kills**



*April 2017 New York City "March for Health"  
- Kena Betancur/Agence France-Presse*

In July of 2015, a San Diego man was bitten by a rattlesnake and racked up a [\\$153,000 medical bill](#).<sup>[1]</sup> The cost for the antivenin was a whopping \$83,000. In May of 2015, a [Missouri man](#) that suffered a venomous snakebite died in his sleep, refusing to get treatment because he couldn't afford the bill.<sup>[2]</sup> These cases detail the enormous cost of healthcare in capitalist America and the life or death questions faced by the working class. The United States, the only major industrialized nation without universal healthcare, has the highest healthcare spending compared to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

As summed up in a 2015 quasi-government report:

*"Health care spending in the U.S. far exceeds that of other high-income countries, though spending growth has slowed in the U.S. and in most other countries in recent years. Even though the U.S. is the only country without a publicly financed universal health system, it still spends more public dollars on health care than all but two of the other countries. Americans have relatively few hospital admissions and physician*

*Cont. pg. 7*

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## Editorial

### “Payback Is A Bear”

Trump looks a lot like a Russian agent. We can't see his tax returns because it would show the sources of his income and would at least indicate in traceable ways the extent of his indebtedness and to whom. This matters because where Obama had sought to break Iran out of the SCO orbit, Trump seeks to split Russia from it (“white power”). Putin, for his part met with Xi in preparation for the G-20 summit, and most bourgeois commentators expressed fear that the amateur Trump would be eaten alive. He may have been. At Trump's request their meeting was limited to the four honchos and two interpreters, so we'll never know how much daylight there is between Trump's “shared culture, values and civilization” and Putin's “anti-terrorism” agendas. We don't even know how many meetings they had.

We're betting there isn't much daylight. And who is in control of events? When European and Japanese leaders feel they are on their own after Crimea, the refugee crisis, the demise of TPPA, U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement and the 30% budget cut for the U.S. State Department, the advantage for shaping events seems to have passed to Putin. And underneath all the “honor to meet you” and the pleasantries, the collisions between the imperialist blocs continue and there is no agreement on Korea, never mind Crimea or the East Sea. A minor deconfliction in southwestern Syria permits Trump to say he got something. What the U.S. gets is a confrontation with the same forces it is sup-

porting in Iraq, pro-Iranian Shia militias who don't feel any respect for the Syrian border. And this ceasefire didn't hold.

Europeans are rejecting the right-”populism” and the wave the Putin/Trump supporters hoped for has not materialized. It has stalled out in eastern Europe. The mass of demonstrators in Hamburg saw the G-20 as a cabal of capitalists and said “welcome to hell!” with molotovs. Upwards of a million defied the state of emergency and marched across Turkey to denounce Erdogan's autocracy. Corbyn, the darling of the half-steppers and latter day “Jacobin” stripes failed to win even as May treads water just to stay on top with the aid of the most reactionary Ulster party. Meantime there is still no power-sharing deal in Stormont! And meanwhile Japan has signed its own trade deal with China!

### How the Middle East Looks Post-G20

Suddenly the U.S.-aligned middle eastern oil states and Egypt have turned on Qatar, serving ultimatums with deadlines. Trump jumps in and joins the gang branding Qatar as the source of funding for Shiite terrorism. No one remotely acquainted with the many sources of arms and money in the post-2011 region can take this blame game seriously. What happened --- and what provided the Sunni royals and those who seek always to be on their right side, such as the Al-Sisi regime of Egypt, with the excuse for this attack on Qatar, --- was Qatar paid a steep ransom to Iranian-affiliated kidnappers for the return of a hunting party that included some nobles. This is laughable but that is the statecraft of living relics. Who benefits? And what is Trump after

beside the incidental suppression of Al Jazeera? Qatar is a major natural gas exporter and has sought for years to have its own foreign policy and not have it dictated by the Gulf Cooperation Council and U.S. imperialism. The ultimatums reiterate the laying down of the law Doha was forced to sign three years ago. Trump arrives and dances with crowned beheaders, just like his predecessors the Bushes and Clintons. Oil and its price, as ever, will decide what Qatar is allowed to do.

What happens to Rojava when the Turkish/Russian offensive begins in earnest? All the fastidious U.S. coalition building for an “SDF,” i.e., Syrian Democratic Forces whose entire task is to fight ISIS (read Sunnis!) and never to conflict with Assad will come to grief. The U.S.-sponsored SDF is on the march for suppression of revolutionary forces wherever they are found. But that's not going to stop either Russian imperialism, which wants all of the Syrian map for Assad. Nor will it stop their new Turkish friends who want no Kurdistan anyplace. We haven't heard of any U.S./Russian ‘deconfliction’ agreement for that front. Kurdish nationalism has been set up again. How many times have the U.S. and Russia messed their martyrs over in the last 50 years? The buildup for this offensive is well underway.

We are for military support for forces fighting each of the imperialist powers and their proxies and allies. It is a practical impossibility to support ISIS militarily, since they are a politically and culturally reactionary religious movement who would behead us as worse than infidels, but we have not lost sight of where and when they arrived on the scene and how they shot their way to the front and the top of a righteous Sunni uprising in the wake of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. This will for a time seem to be the signal event of the era if the competing imperialisms and their sometimes pet Assad succeed in drowning this uprising in blood. It is only socialist revolution that offers any way out for the oppressed peoples, not any one of the religious obscurantisms. No lasting resolution of the underlying conflict arising from the oppression of the Sunni majority will result from any Iranian sweep-to-the-Mediterranean, from any ISIS total defeat in the present period. ISIS leadership of the Sunni masses can and will go the way of Saddam Hus-

Cont. pg. 2

sein, and the Arab national revolution will remain on the historical agenda as it has been more or less uninterrupted since the defeat of the Ottomans almost 100 years ago. Right now U.S. troops have no idea they are objectively doing Assad's dirty work as they surround and shell Raqqa. **We demand all U.S. troops and military hardware out of the middle east now!**



*Rally in Yemen on May 21st by the separatist Southern Movement (Reuters)*

We recently read more pro-Assad lies from Seymour Hersh. Once again he could not sell his story to the Washington Post and this time had to settle for space in the columns of "Die Welt." No matter for the fake left and 150 new Russian agents on the internet in America who repeat Hersh's flimflam no matter what evidence the White Helmets have ("terrorists!," our Messrs. Leftists declaim,) or the results of a forensic examination of the scene by international experts declaring Sarin gas was used. Never mind experts, we are told by every little and ex- Stalin, Assad doesn't need chemical weapons-- he's winning! But Assad is running out of Syrian soldiers. Will Trump flip back to his campaign position of 'let(ing) Russia deal with Syria,' or has the U.S. military become too invested in goals like securing the Iraqi/Syrian border against its own erstwhile allies, the Shia militias nearby and now surrounding Mosul? They are asking permission from Baghdad to cross.

Getting played by its "own" side in Iraq, the U.S. has to keep these pro-Iranian forces out of Syria, and Russia is glad to let the U.S. fight this battle. We see no breaches between Iran, Assad and/or the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the China-Russia alliance. If all you know about the G-20 are the subtitles put out by CNN telling you the U.S. and Russia agreed to a ceasefire in Syria, you have been misinformed. There is only an agreement not to shoot each other in the southwest corner and near the Jordanian border, where the C.I.A. training base is about to be closed down in a concession to Putin. The S.C.O. played the G-20 summit. The talking heads are all saying the U.S. is not leading the world anymore. We have told you for several years that U.S. imperialism is in decline. Now the proof vivifies on TV.

The Arab national-democratic revolution is alive in Yemen as well, and is gathering renewed strength. Caught for five years in a vise between the Iranian-backed Houthis and the exiled Hadi government supported by Saudi Arabia and the U.S. Air Force, the masses in the South have revived their historical struggle for independence. British imperialism denied this to them in the 1960s, but this flame turns out to be inextinguishable. The masses took the streets of Aden to make explicit their rejection of rule by either sectarian option, by either proxy puppet. We maintain that the permanent revolution is a law of history and that it is the imperial powers who are doomed.

### **"None dare call it treason"**

This was the title of a John Birch Society pamphlet that was a sensation and a problem for the Republican 1964 nominee, Barry Goldwater. His resistance to its essential fascism was worn down by the majority of his supporters, which at the time included Hillary Clinton, and he made a speech claiming that the Birch political brand was only patriotic and extremist patriotism was no vice. Since that time there has been capitalist restoration in the former USSR, and all the Goldwater and Reagan forces have had to rally behind the fratboy blowhard standard bearer of Birchers and the even further right forces, the Kluxers, the many disappointed place-seeking sons of Hitler allies also formerly known as eastern european "freedom fighters", the Adelson wing and other Zionists, the religious right hucksters and small fry fascist, nazi and white supremacist outfits. Capitalist restoration and the sway of Vladimir Putin over international conferences of

white supremacists has won the essential core of Trump activism to an identity politics of white capitalists. This is not going to solve any of Trump's political problems with either the U.S. masses, who don't count in bourgeois politics, or with finance capital, whose patience with Trump is running out already and in just the way we described in "[Trumped, Stumped and Dumped.](#)" It is only in the case where their patience runs out that some provocation by Trump, such as the firing of Special Counsel Mueller will cause a congressional sea change against him. In the more likely case

there will be an attempt to bury the investigations, since their patience has to do not with "news" but with profits, tax cuts and political spoils. They are waiting for those.

Trump can become a Bonaparte, or not, if he delivers. He is already too transparent and thus unpopular to become a Fuehrer. More than 2/3 of the population already see him as a liar who can't stop himself, and where fascist leaders made political capital by putting over the "big lie," Trump hasn't even sold his border wall or his claim there were 3-5 million illegal votes cast last year. If the bourgeoisie decides they need one of those Fuehrers they will find one. They are already testing the mass appeal of new neo-fascist groupings. If they decide they have need of one they'll choose one and that's when they will care about 'patriotism.' For now, they don't.

Well neither do we. The working people have no country. We have a planet, though, and we suddenly find ourselves with a nihilist president surrounded by white supremacists and their "nationalist" enablers who together tell the world the U.S. will no longer tolerate North Korea. For the workers of the world it is objectively intolerable that this "alternative truth" believing bunch have control over 7000 nuclear weapons! We say hands off the DPRK! Every preemption scenario their experts discuss is insane! Yet together with the supposed "resistance," i.e. the Democrats, they would have you believe the nuclear warhead and missile programs of the DPRK are the major threat to peace of the entire post-Cold War era.

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We will say, and it seems we are the only ones who will say that bourgeois politics is species treason!

### **A Watershed, A Woodshed**

Bourgeois politics will not remove Trump anytime soon. The Democrats badly want him to lose his majority in the House of Representatives in the 2018 elections. However, that idea only solves the problem of bringing the impeachment charges. The trial on those won't happen if not agreed to by the Senate, which Trump's party also controls. So however much the impeachment groundswell grows, the actual prospect is unlikely. This causes handwringing and mewling among those who just can't imagine a post-capitalist development of society and a workers' state that begins to disappear the moment it triumphs. They can't imagine it because they have target fixation on prevention of the rise of a fighting workers' labor party.

So "The Amsterdam News" asked as early as March 16 "Is Trump Impeachable?" This is the voice of the Percy Sutton wing of "Democratic Socialism" and the source of many slogan cues for big city union bureaucrats. But now the "paper of record," the N.Y. Times seems to answer 'sadly, no' in its July 4th editorial. Trust the bourgeoisie for nothing, unless what you seek is disappointment!

Revolutionary workers oppose in every way the rule of the capitalist class, advocate and support a class independent movement and direct action in the streets for Trump's impeachment. To the extent that workers can be organized for their own interests and independent of the Democrats and their pseudo-opposition, we will help our class in all its struggles from minimal wage demands to factory occupations, general strikes and the expropriation of the capitalist class. We will expose the fake character of an opposition that leaves all decisions and ultimate state power in the hands of our oppressors.

Thus we are not on board with all the liberal groaning and eye rolling at Trump's amateurism; Trump is socially repugnant and the worst sexist slob since Warren G. Harding, but Pence is a professional politician and no nihilist and is cut of the

### **Earl ("Luis Tapia") Gilman 1936 - 2017**



### **Revolutionary Trotskyist Internationalist**

whole cloth of the real rightism which put Trump up to gaming the system and showed him how to win all the required marbles a la the 2000 election.

We have no interest in replacing one fat cat face with another who we are told is not responsible for the crimes of the person he replaces. We'd put an end to that lie. We seek to organize the progressive radicalization of the masses from whatever starting point it begins, ergo impeachment. Difficulties for the capitalist class are our opportunities! The Democrats may express the feeling that they want to take Trump to the woodshed on account of his Russian campaign helpers, his Tweets and "optics" and trashing of the press, the rightist war on science, etc. But they are not in a position to do so and know they are handling dynamite. Suddenly they have to play the bigger patriots (hawks, too) right when they also have to corral the impeachment movement. This didn't work for Hillary, despite her corralling previously pacifist churchgoers and bourgeois feminists (into her pro-war camp! Bourgeois feminists work around the clock now to try to say she was for peace and that her hawkishness was not Goldwater but a Russian social media robot operation fiction! She's been a hawk her whole life!)

It is not in the Democrats' interests to repeat the experience of an uncontrolled mass impeachment movement like we saw in 1974. Only the fact that the Senate agreed to a trial headed that power crisis off in what was a summer of wildcat strikes. So, for instance, a million women marched in D.C. alone on January 21, denouncing Trump's misogyny with pink pussy hats a la "Pussy Riot" and homemade protest signs that escaped the Democrats' brain police control. Even as a host of Bourgeois politicians took the microphone and told the crowd to stay mobilized, they lied. They were mortified!

Impeachment will not be the main event of these next years. At the moment the liberals' hopes are cresting because Trump has not yet been able to put over smashing Obamacare. But this is just the opening game. The danger of world war and the imminence of financial crisis and deeper depression crowd each other for the next slice of time. Liberalism has no answer for either. They didn't last year and don't now. Last year they were committed to the fiction of the recovery from the 2008 crash and the bogus official unemployment rate. They are committed to wholesale denial of realities and to the perpetuation of the profit system no matter what it does to the planet and the human species. This means their "resistance" to the budget slashing of every protective and benefit program takes place now, when they lack the votes and lose. This will be politically convenient when the stock market tanks again. This will happen soon. Their hopeless "resistance" is a con game that takes in every kind of half-stepper, as they pretend to be a 'viable' counter to what their class interest demands: \$3.5 Trillion in tax cuts for the plutocrats, 10% more for the military-industrial complex and wholesale privatization of public education. If the Trump gang can deliver this the globalists will let the autarchs have their run.

The historic moment for the working class to put an end to the bourgeois dictatorship is as close as the growth of the necessary consciousness and self-confidence. For this, workers need their own revolution, not the fiction of some servant of the bosses' class (Bernie!). To the liberals' tepid opposition to voter suppression schemes we oppose mass democratic bodies of the workers and the oppressed, where direct democracy is the

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norm and your franchise decides most questions. For the coordination of the efforts to accomplish the great tasks of the socialist revolution, some representative bodies of delegates of the local bodies will be formed by election. But delegates to these bodies will receive workers' prevailing rate pay only, and will themselves be perpetually and immediately subject to recall by the voters of the basic councils. This will be the international model for the future society. State and government will be everyone.

To so switch the course of history from the 'no future' position to 'living future' will require leadership today by the vanguard of the workers and the oppressed and in an increasingly organized fashion. Because the decision of the masses, in fact the great decision of history, has not been made as to organizational form, we simultaneously champion both the fighting workers' labor party and the Leninist/Trotskyist revolutionary Marxist vanguard party, and we fight for and only take responsibility for the revolutionary transitional program we advance in both.

Some champions of the working class movement know there exists one exit to a future, but many are behaving like they don't. Leaving for another day's consideration the many "socialists" who won't support or oppose real revolutions due to orientalism or "laicite", the worst-offending analyses of the present realities facing the working class are those of the Avakian-RCP and the Barnes-SWP. Each of these appear to live in their own worlds of alternative facts: for the RCP, the Trump regime is fascist and the late-FBI Director Comey is a hero, while for the SWP, the Trump supporters are the blue collar revolt itself and Trump is being subjected to a witch hunt by elitists. In the Avakian-RCP case a search of their literature shows no corresponding criticism of the Obama administration, even though it hatched the National Defense Authorization Act which authorizes the President to order the assassinations of U.S. citizens. The Barnes-SWP takes no notice of the many gangs of MAWA groupings ("Make America White Again") among the Trump activ-



Popular frontist "fight the right" Maoist RCP defends former FBI director Comey of the capitalist state agency that carried out COINTELPRO and that murdered the Black Panthers.

ists, nor do they seem to have heard of the many times he incited or condoned violence against hecklers at his rallies. He said "...In the old days they'd be carried out on a stretcher." Is Trump channeling someone's memories of the nazis' Camp Siegfried? Or maybe his father marching with the Klan in 1927? When the real workers' upsurge responds to the calamities bourgeois rule has in store for us, these tendencies will wind up in history's dumpster.

At the marches and rallies against Trump's Muslim Ban earlier this year, liberal Democrats we suspect of dual membership in the Communist Party had Trump-as-Hitler effigies up front at the sites before the announced start times. This a-historical rubbish reminds us of how even much better worker leaders got the question of what fascism was and how to fight it WRONG! James P. Cannon and Michel Pablo both thought the Korean War was the beginning of World War III and Cannon saw Joe McCarthy and McCarthyism as American fascism. But McCarthy never built a private army out of a mass of lumpen proletarians and ruined petty bourgeois for the purpose of terrorizing and smashing the workers' movement. Cannon should have realized that 1950 was the peak year of union membership in New York and the post-war recession was over. Thus the terrible beating the left took at the Peekskill folk festival at the hands of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars was not to be repeated. McCarthy had other fish to fry.

Real fascists have slithered into view. Low down and high up too, and almost from the moment of Trump's electoral success. We had said they would be em-

boldened. Sure enough, the anti-Islamic "ACT for America" group, funded across the whole post-9/11 era by big bourgeois and innocuous sounding foundations, felt sufficiently backed to stage nationwide rallies on June 6. These were almost all flops, and this has given rise both to "left" complacency and wrong conclusions. Fascism is not an ordinary variety of social stupidity that can be dealt with adequately by expressions of disapproval. So, for instance, Freedom Socialist Party

declared the counter demonstrations a success and called for a united front of the participating groups for the future. For us, June 6 was a feel good failure, a political funhouse of mixed banners and a victory for the police. To our knowledge, only leftists were arrested. More to the point, little headway was made in warning workers that to defeat fascism, mass self-defense forces of the workers and oppressed must be organized. Centrists, reformists and anarchists reject this judgement of historical experience, and another lesson too; we want to crush fascism in the egg because time to do so could run out fast should we suddenly face a much deeper economic smashup.

## Class Warrior

Theoretical Journal Of The Liaison Committee of Communists  
Volume 1 Number 2 Summer 2013 (after December 53:00)

### FOR PERMANENT REVOLUTION IN SYRIA

Recommends, The Class Warrior, as the Syrian Revolution...  
The global capitalist crisis that has built up since 2007 can only be resolved in this way. Today the rivalry between the two imperialist blocs amounts to nothing but the rivalry of two imperialist blocs, or the international working class continues to suffer degradation and being alone a mortal sentence. The imperialist blocs are engaged in a struggle between the automated and declining blocs, led by US imperialism and the emergent Chinese-Russian imperialist bloc, over the economic, strategic, and the super profits to be extracted from the proletarian masses and their households. The global south has become the battlefield between these rival blocs at the expense of the semi-colonial states and the working masses. The semi-colonial countries are the battlefield for the intense international rivalry of imperialists, where the imperialist blocs and their national agents interconnect by global connections. The Arab Revolution that began in 2011 is an expression of the beginning of a global challenge to the rule of capital by the world's workers who refuse to pay for the imperialist crisis and which has opened the road to proletarian revolution. The revolutionary war in Syria has been the vanguard of the Arab Revolution and the global challenge for more than two years.

The initial form that the Arab Revolution has taken in the form of...  
Imperialist democratic institutions. But mostly they act as mere fig leaves and their ability to defend from their ability to control the masses and place the burden...  
Today this predatory, parasitic imperialism, targets the semi-colonial, coming at them from two fronts. After established every region continues to control the masses and deliver booty to the (imperialist) dominant imperialist powers, on the masses upon the apple and oil and other commodities. Rightwing imperialism, the 'real' imperialist power, continues to dominate the masses with their imperialist rule for control of the semi-colonial states, even as they face a revolutionary opening. When these soldiers are called upon to take a revolutionary step, the 'real' imperialist power aims for 'propaganda change' rather than behind the scenes maneuvering or by propagating itself on the back of a popular uprising. The extent to which the popular opening is to be subordinated to imperialist forces is the point to consider.

The Syrian masses are fighting for their liberation against the two major imperialist blocs, their parasites and the ultra-revolutionary fascists. For the working class to assert itself, it requires its party and program to unite the masses across the divisions against forces of exploitation and oppression. While the two imperialist camps and their agents have the resources of world wealth and two of the most powerful states, the

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## FEES MUST BE SMASHED!

### FIGHT FOR FREE, PROGRESSIVE, UNIVERSAL AND QUALITY EDUCATION!



*University of Zimbabwe (UZ) students protest June 2017*

On Monday the 26th of June 2017 medical students at the University of Zimbabwe staged a massive demonstration at the offices of the University Vice Chancellor protesting against a 100% increase in tuition fees. In response, the University management harassed and assaulted students using private security guards. As if that was not enough, about 600 medical students were evicted from the hall of residents and thrown into the street. The Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-Z) fully supports the struggle by medical students and all students against all forms of fees. Fees must be smashed and not merely reduced.

This recent demonstration by the medical students puts back into the limelight the historic and important struggle for free, quality, universal and progressive education in the service of human needs and not for the service of the callous capitalist system in its various manifestations. The call for free education from primary to tertiary level is not an abstract concept in Zimbabwe or the world over. From independence in 1980 and up to the early 1990s government greatly subsidised education up to tertiary or college levels with many of the bureaucrats championing austerity measures being beneficiaries of subsidised education. This was a result of the social pressure exerted on the state soon after independence and also as a tactic by the government to build a political base as it struggled to gain a foothold on state monopoly. Education, health and other basic services became accessible to a majority of the poor people in direct contrast to the colonial period where such services were only available and subsidised to the white mi-

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nority. In a limited way, the Stalinist and radical nationalist measures adopted by the government at independence went a long way in providing basic needs to the poor as well as showing the potential for a fully state controlled development in the interest of the poor masses.

All this was reversed from the early 1990s onwards as the ZANU-PF government embarked on an IMF/WB sponsored liberalisation of socio-economic life under the programme termed Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP). Under this economic plan and subsequent ones, the state was forced to open the industries and public institutions to private concerns and international competition resulting in job losses, unavailability and unaffordability of basic services like education. Students from Early Child Development classes (preparatory stage) up to University/college are required to pay for their studies. This has resulted in a number of dropouts along the academic path as many cannot afford the fees demanded upfront. The economic crisis in the country since 2000 buttressed by the global recession of 2008 forced the government to attack students and the poor even more as the government embarks on a brutal austerity drive. The education sector is now in shambles owing to massive cuts in public spending and poor remuneration of staff demanded by imperialism.

The attacks on students can only be seen in the context of the general social and international context of austerity measures by states as they try to force on workers and the poor masses the cost of the economic crisis. As such the struggle by students for free education must be linked to the fight against austerity, dictatorship, capitalism and imperialism. Government does not implement austerity or anti poor measures out of stupidity but as a deliberate reaction to a need of the system they serve. They are nothing personal about capitalist brutality. Only a proper understanding of the causes of the attacks on education, jobs and other basic services can inform a correct response to the issues affecting the education sector and society at large.

The fight for free education remains ur-

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gent. Ordinary students must not wait for the initiative from elected leaders most of whom become compromised once elected. Neither should they rely on the initiative of oppositional political formations whose various Manifestos seek to deepen and entrench the assault on education. All the talk of being pro students is just but campaign rhetoric that will be easily dumped once elected into office. Apart from ordinary students forcing the leadership or taking independent initiative there is need for ideological clarity on the causes of the state of the education sector so that correct demands and strategies can be posed. As students would say "the struggle continues unabated!" These demands should be posed:

**Reinstatement of all medical students into halls of residents!**

**For free, quality, universal and progressive education from primary to tertiary level!**

**Abolition of all fees at all levels of education and for all basic social services! Public works to build schools, colleges and public infrastructure!**

**A living wage and good working conditions to all educational staff and all workers!**

**To provide education for all big and imperialist assets must be nationalised and put under workers control and self-management!**

**For a workers state that defends students, workers and peasants against the local and foreign capitalists!**

**For a workers and peasants' government on the basis of the armed people to implement decisions that benefit the workers, students and the poor!**

**For an African socialist revolution as part of the international revolution that alone can guarantee a better life for all!**

**For a new world party of socialist revolution based on the transitional program of 1938 to lead the revolution to end capitalism and open the road to socialism!**

Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-Z) - 29 June 2017, Harare Zimbabwe

Cont. from pg. 1 Healthcare...

visits, but are greater users of expensive technologies like magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines. Available cross-national pricing data suggest that prices for health care are notably higher in the U.S., potentially explaining a large part of the higher health spending. In contrast, the U.S. devotes a relatively small share of its economy to social services, such as housing assistance, employment programs, disability benefits, and food security. Finally, despite its heavy investment in health care, the U.S. sees poorer results on several key health outcome measures such as life expectancy and the prevalence of chronic conditions. Mortality rates from cancer are low and have fallen more quickly in the U.S. than in other countries, but the reverse is true for mortality from ischemic heart disease."

- Commonwealth Fund, "[U.S. Health Care from a Global Perspective](#)", October, 2015

With the 2016 election of Trump and the ushering in of social reaction, the ruling class is going all out to undo Obama's Affordable Care Act (ACA) and replace it with the Trump/Ryan American Health Care Act (AHCA). The AHCA guts protections for pre-existing conditions, cuts Medicaid and kills Medicaid expansion, defunds Planned Parenthood, and will cause millions of Americans to lose insurance. The *L.A. Times* called it a "tax cut for the rich." [3] This continues the assault on decades of social gains, of labor and abortion rights.

Our position is that Obamacare was never going to be a viable method of providing quality and affordable health care for all. It was always a limited reform, being principally a benefit for insurance companies and these companies much prefer to make a higher rate of profit on fewer covered people paying higher premiums. This caused some companies to drop out of the insurance provider pools in most states. Obamacare never provided sufficient premium protection for chronic conditions, nor against soaring prescription costs. Socialized medicine would not permit any of these costs to go uncontrolled, as the firms would be worker-controlled. Profit would be removed from the equation and healthcare would be recognized as a human right.

The political question of universal healthcare has taken center-stage once again. John Conyers (D) has introduced H.R. 676 into the House, a "Medicare for All" bill. [4] This bill as written would create a single-payer universal healthcare system building on the existing Medicare system. It would leave the private health sector alone and would be financed through payroll and income taxes and "taxing the rich". One problem with this bill is that by the time the Democratic and Republican parties got done with it in the House and Senate, even assuming it had any chance of passing, you can bet it would end up like a Dr. Frankenstein monster with the working-class paying a whole lot for a lot less than promised in the initial version of the bill.

Medicare is not free healthcare insurance. Workers pay for it throughout their lives in payroll taxes and despite that are best advised to buy supplemental insurance. And there are additional costs. A retired couple can expect to pay thousands of dollars on healthcare every year at a time when they are on a fixed income and their health is more at risk. See Med City News, "[Medicare Is Not Free, As Many Would Believe](#)"...

Medicare for all is also what Bernie Sanders says he will support in a "companion bill" to H.R. 676. Either way it would not most likely not be free and in a capitalist system where the drive to maximize the rate of profit rules, it would not be quality.

"Medicare for All" or "Single-Payer Universal" healthcare demands are all calls for a refurbished, for-profit, capitalist healthcare system. While liberal reformist demands can be supportable depending on the circumstances (and Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security are defensible gains), we of the Communist Workers Group (CWG-USA) do not subordinate the working class political program of transitional demands for socialist revolution to liberal reformist demands. We always advance our Marxist program and we support even minimal demands, employing and teaching militant, class struggle methods, thus extending Medicare as a universal healthcare system is also a limited gain, a plus so long as labor and the oppressed build an independent workers' movement for socialized medicine as part of a

socialist program. But the devil is in the details and most reforms are partial wins or even a double-edged sword designed to buy class peace. And right now, the only "mass movement" raising the demand for "Medicare for All" is the movement by the Democratic Party hacks, the class collaborationist union bureaucrats and the fake-socialist misleaders like DSA trying get the Democrats back into office. The "struggle" for them is at the Democratic Party rallies, the "moral suasion" pressure politics of street marches, political lobbying and the ballot box.

In contrast, what is necessary is for the working class to fight for our objective interests, and ***free, quality healthcare for all can only happen through the nationalization without compensation of the healthcare, pharmaceutical and medical technology industries under workers control.*** Quality in healthcare can only happen through ***production and services for social needs not profit.*** Only rational ***centralized-planning in a collectivized socialist economy*** can realize this.

Healthcare under a capitalist system, even a universal healthcare system, will still be driven by the laws of the capitalist system to maximize the rate of profit. Britain's National Health Service public healthcare suffers from staff shortages and cuts (see The Guardian, "[Staff shortages are threatening the NHS](#)", February 2017). The Canadian healthcare system, like the United States, has wait times due to rationing: "In 1966, Canada implemented a single-payer health care system, which is also known as Medicare. Since then, as a country, Canadians have made a conscious decision to hold down costs. One of the ways they do that is by limiting supply, mostly for elective things, which can create wait times (PNHP, "[5 Myths About Canada's Health Care System](#)", June 2012)."

Scarcity and rationing can only be solved through rational planning by the working class, determining social needs and allocating resources to fulfill those needs. U.S. healthcare is also experiencing shortages of medical staff. [5] A planned economy would seek to train the next generation of medical workers. This ties into education and training, which is why ***free, quality education for all*** is necessary

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for quality healthcare also. Quality education can only come about by eliminating the poverty and exploitation in society, tearing down the racist economic segregation of the inner cities. This poverty is a permanent feature of an economy that feeds the military-industrial-complex the capitalists require to maintain their world empire. Feeding it to the tune of almost a Trillion dollars denies monies to every human need satisfying endeavor. Capital's proposed remedy of privatizing everything is more religion than reason, having ceased to be progressive more than a century ago, their declining rate of profits drives competing imperialisms to world war.

### Reformist Socialist Tag-Tails of the Democrats

Along with elections, healthcare is always a pretty good litmus test for Bolshevism vs. Menshevism in America among the ostensible socialist organizations. Socialist Alternative (Soc Alt) and the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), for example, call for either "Medicare for All" or "Single-Payer Universal" healthcare. These are the same demands raised by the Democratic Party liberals for many years. Soc Alt and DSA abandon the **Marxist political program of free, quality healthcare for all** and play the tag tail of the Democratic Party liberals. These "socialists" seek to be the best builders and most consistent advocates of the politics of the liberal bourgeoisie, be it healthcare or advocating a sub-living \$15 poverty minimum wage.

The political method of these organizations, like most of what calls itself the "Left" in America, is to pressure the capitalist state for legislative reforms, notably trying to pressure the Democratic Party to the left. They are *'desperately seeking a progressive wing of the capitalist ruling class'* that doesn't exist and that will never exist. This method is very well expressed by Noam Chomsky's political children who like to quote Howard Zinn: **"The really critical thing isn't who is sitting in the**



*Democratic Party sabotaged single-payer healthcare SB562 bill in California.*

**White House, but who is sitting in—in the streets, in the cafeterias, in the halls of government, in the factories. Who is protesting, who is occupying offices and demonstrating—those are the things that determine what happens.**" That struggle gets the goods is true, but for Marxists, it also *does* matter who is sitting in the White House, or rather, **which social class holds state power.** We don't want anyone sitting in the White House and instead we seek to organize and mobilize the workers as a class-conscious class for itself to establish workers power. Endless protests, divorced from a perspective of a politically independent workers' movement armed with an historic workers' political program of transitional demands that build a bridge to the socialist revolution, are reducing socialist revolution to a form of "left" activists' political lobbying for minimal demands, for mere reforms!

Soc Alt and Kshama Sawant, supporters of the capitalist Green Party (itself a pressure group on the Democrats), were cheerleaders and prominent builders of social imperialist Sanders' campaign rallies, even at the same time denying that they formally advanced political support to his campaign for nomination. They are currently parroting Sanders and his call for "Medicare for All" and continue to cheer him (see Socialist Alternative, ["Democratic Leadership Under Pressure – Which Way Forward for the Left?"](#)) after even many of his supporters saw him for what he was, a bourgeois politician for the Democratic Party. Sanders recently toured the country with DNC Chair Perez on their unity tour

to rebuild the Democrats for 2018 and also recently signed a pro-Israel Senate letter, thumbing his nose at the Palestinian struggle.

DSA has been growing dramatically, riding the momentum of a renewed interest in socialism and the popularity of the Sanders' campaign. That well-meaning workers and youth subjectively wanting to fight for socialism are joining DSA is undeniable. The leadership of DSA, which is where it counts politically, are little better than the left flank of the

Democratic Party. "Democratic", as in Democratic Party, is a very appropriate title for DSA, but they miss the mark by a wide margin on the "Socialists" part. DSA has their origins in the Cold War anti-communist, social imperialism of the Socialist Party (who supported the U.S. in the Vietnam War), which split eventually into the DSA led by Michael Harrington in the early 1970s. Part of the social democratic Socialist International, the political step-child of the Second International, DSA has been entrenched in the Democratic Party from the start, supporting Mondale, Jackson, Kerry, Sanders and Obama through the decades of exploitation, war, racism and poverty. DSA never let such things as imperialist bombings by Democratic Party administrations (Clinton, Obama) or cutting welfare (Clinton) interrupt their support for the Democrats. Harrington quite clearly stated his politics and those of the DSA: **"I share an immediate program with liberals in this country because the best liberalism leads toward socialism.... I want to be on the left wing of the possible"** (New York Times, ["Michael Harrington, Socialist and Author, Is Dead"](#), August 1989)." Harrington saw that **"the left wing of realism is found today in the Democratic Party"** (Newsletter of the Democratic Left, March 1973, p. 5)."

Today you can see the DSA in action as they organize what are Democratic Party electoral rallies. For example, in Iowa City and in five other Iowa cities, DSA and "Our Revolution" organized a "Medicare for All" rally on May 20th with a whole slew of local and state

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Democratic Party politicians as speakers. This is the first thing that the sellout labor bureaucrats do in every labor struggle. Find a Democratic Party politician to stand on stage and tell workers and youth to vote in the next election. This is DSA's method for winning healthcare reform that takes a flight from political reality and into fantasyland. Even if the Democratic Party were to support such reforms as Medicare for All, they cannot even defend social gains they do support such as abortion and labor rights, much less advance new significant reforms. Right-wing social reaction cannot be fought through the Democratic Party. The trade union bureaucracy has been playing this game for decades and it has resulted in the labor movement being brought to the brink.

DSA serves to prop up working class illusions in the Democratic Party of U.S. imperialism; the party of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, Bay of Pigs, Vietnam, and the current MENA wars; a political party of exploitation, war, poverty and racism. DSA is providing a left cover for a political party of the ruling capitalist class under the banner of 'socialism' and are a political obstacle to building a class struggle workers' movement and a class conscious working class. DSA bolsters illusions in electoral politics, reinforces pro-capitalist ideology within the workers' movement and promotes liberal bourgeois reformist politics at the expense of a working class political program that points the way towards workers rule.

Revolutionary Marxism draws a political picket line between the working class and the capitalist parties: Democrats, Republicans, Greens. And just like the labor bureaucracy which has supported the Democrats for decades, what can be said for a 'socialist' (or labor) leadership that does not even recognize who the enemy social class is and who the enemy political parties are? A leadership that supports such political parties, who sides with the enemy social class? And to top it off, in the midst of a class war that the working class is losing?!!!

Karl Marx's International Workingman's Association, the First International, was very clear on the question of working class independence from capitalist

parties:

***"Against the collective power of the propertied classes the working class cannot act, as a class, except by constituting itself into a political party, distinct from, and opposed to, all old parties formed by the propertied classes."***

- International Workingmen's Association, Hague Congress, ["Resolution on the establishment of working-class parties"](#), July 1872

***"However, our politics must be working-class politics. The workers' party must never be the tagtail of any bourgeois party; it must be independent and have its goal and its own policy."***

- International Workingmen's Association, ["Apropos Of Working-Class Political Action"](#), September 1871

It is a common understanding among leftists that the Democratic Party is the 'graveyard of social and class struggles', that that is where social movements go to die. Last year, trade unionists in [Portland Oregon IUPAT \(Painters\) Local 10](#) passed a resolution calling for ***"the labor movement to break from the Democratic Party, and build a class-struggle workers party."***

These trade unionists represent a class-conscious section of the working class, standing for a politically independent workers movement as opposed to those **fake-socialist misleaders, the "tagtails" of the Democrats like DSA**, who say ***"we are not a separate party"*** (from the Democrats) and who seek to ***"strengthen the [Democratic] party's left wing, represented by the Congressional Progressive Caucus."*** (DSA, ["Aren't you a party that's in competition with the Democratic Party for votes and support?"](#))

### **For a class struggle workers movement!**

Social Security and other gains that came out of the 1930's were a product of social and class struggles, not a gift from Roosevelt's New Deal. The militant organizing drives and labor struggles such as the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strike, the Toledo Autolite strike and the San Francisco Longshoremen's general strike, were all led by ostensible

Reds. Militant class struggle is what forced the capitalist ruling class to make concessions. 1937 saw over 1000 sit-down strikes across the U.S. in the wake of the famous Flint plant occupation by auto-workers. Medicare and Medicaid were passed during the period of colonial/semi-colonial social revolutions (China, Cuba, Vietnam), the social struggles of the Civil Rights Movement and the anti-war protests against the U.S. imperialist Vietnam War prosecuted by the Democratic Party Johnson administration. The U.S. ruling class was caught in their contradiction of waging an anti-communist Cold War in the name of so-called democracy, while poverty and Jim Crow segregation existed at home. They at least had to go through the motions of prettifying racist capitalist America with a minimal social safety net and abolishing formal, legal segregation.

European social democracy existed as an anti-communist bulwark post-WW II against the bureaucratically degenerated Soviet and Eastern European workers' states. Social democracy was propped up by European Capital through the super-exploitation and plunder of their colonies and semi-colonies. It was also a product of class struggles and of a class conscious working class that were organized into working class parties, albeit bourgeois workers' parties with pro-capitalist, class-collaborationist leaderships. The Democratic Party in America serves the same role as social democracy, but as an outright capitalist party. A poor substitute even for decrepit social democracy. The American working class, divided by racism and a "pull up by your bootstraps" false bourgeois ideology of social advancement, never developed an advanced class consciousness. The U.S. never had a mass working class party and stands as the only major industrialized country without universal healthcare. Even Canada, which has a universal healthcare system, had a workers party, if just barely, in the New Democratic Party (NDP).

The ruling class is not going to grant any significant reforms now absent mass working class struggle. World capitalism has not recovered from the 2007-08 crash and Capital is still seeking to restore their lost rate of profit and they are doing that partially through attacking the social gains of the past and by waging war on

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the working class. Given the dearth of working class leadership and the absence of class struggle in the United States, they can do this without the unnecessary overhead of social democracy. The time is long overdue for the working class and oppressed to start building the fighting organizations of the working class: the factory, worksite and trade union committees, the workers and oppressed assemblies and the labor, black and brown self-defense guards. And above all to build the working-class political party based on an historic class struggle workers political program of transitional demands that mobilizes the working class to cross the bridge from today's demands for such things as healthcare, jobs, education and housing to the whole program of the socialist revolution.

*"The revolutionaries always consider that the reforms and acquisitions are only a by-product of the revolutionary struggle. If we say that we will only demand what they can give, the ruling class will give only one-tenth or none of what we demand. When we demand more and can impose our demands, the capitalists are compelled to give the maximum. The more extended and militant the spirit of the workers, the more is demanded and won. They are not sterile slogans; they are means of pressure on the bourgeoisie, and will give the greatest possible material results immediately."*

- Leon Trotsky, "[The Political Backwardness of American Workers](#)", May 1940

**Defend Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security!**

**ACA Stinks, but 'Nothing Care' Stinks Worse! Nationalize the Healthcare, Pharmaceutical & Medical Technology Industries Under Workers Control with No Compensation to the Major Shareholders!**

**For Free Quality Healthcare for All Through Socialized Medicine to Include Free Abortion on Demand and Full Reproductive Services!  
For Free Quality Education for All to Train and Educate the Next Generation of Healthcare Workers!**

**Build a Class Struggle Workers Movement! For Labor Political Strikes and General Strikes to Win Workers' Demands!**

**For a Rational, Centrally-Planned, Collectivized Socialist Economy Under Workers Control with Production for Social Needs, Not Profit!**

**Break with All Capitalist Parties: Democrats, Republicans and Greens!  
Build a Fighting, Multi-Racial, Internationalist, Workers/Labor Party to Fight for a Workers Government Based on Workers Councils and a Workers Militia! For Workers Rule!**

**For World Socialism, the Last, Best and Only Hope for Humanity's Future!**

- CWG-USA, May 2017

[1] [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/07/20/this-153000-rattlesnake-bite-is-everything-wrong-with-american-health-care/?utm\\_term=.c053c7b9ba6d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/07/20/this-153000-rattlesnake-bite-is-everything-wrong-with-american-health-care/?utm_term=.c053c7b9ba6d)

[2] <http://kfor.com/2015/05/27/man-dies-from-snake-bite-after-saying-he-couldnt-afford-hospital-bill/>

[3] <http://www.latimes.com/business/hiltzik/la-fi-hiltzik-obamacare-repeal-20170504-story.html>

[4] <http://www.pnhp.org/hr676>

[5] <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2015/03/03/u-s-faces-90000-doctor-shortage-by-2025-medical-school-association-warns/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/02/nursing-shortage/459741/>



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## Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), League for a Revolutionary Party (LRP) and Healthcare

In an article published on the Jacobin website written by Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) member Dustin Guastella, put forward a proposal for a “Medicare for All March on Washington” (<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/07/medicare-for-all-single-payer-health-care-march-nurses-unions>).

The modern-day reformist opportunists of the DSA who support social imperialist Sanders and who work to “strengthen the [ed. Democratic] party’s left wing, represented by the Congressional Progressive Caucus” are seeking to further capitalize on the life and death healthcare question by pushing for Medicare for All.

DSA’s politics sit below even those of the opportunists of the Second International such as Kautsky. Kautsky at least recognized the necessity of a working class party while DSA is entrenched in the Democratic Party. One might ask why these class collaborators par excellence don’t just dispense with the socialism and become the liberal Democrats they really strive to be.

No real worry there though because in practice DSA fights for the politics of the liberal bourgeoisie, to place themselves as the best advocates and best builders of the movement for liberal capitalist reforms, abandoning, for example, the socialist political program of “**free quality healthcare for all!**” Instead of building a class conscious fighting workers movement, the Democratic (Party) fake-Socialists of America (DSA) build illusions in a not so kinder and not so gentler reformed capitalism. Their vehicle for achieving this is not revolutionary working class struggle against capitalism, but the same old pressure politics in, on and among the Democrats. This method can be clearly seen in a couple of local DSA “Medicare for All” rallies in Iowa, where liberal Democratic Party politics dominated as local and state Democratic Party politicians and party activists were mobilized for the podium in preparation for the 2018 election cycle.

DSA has been growing dramatically

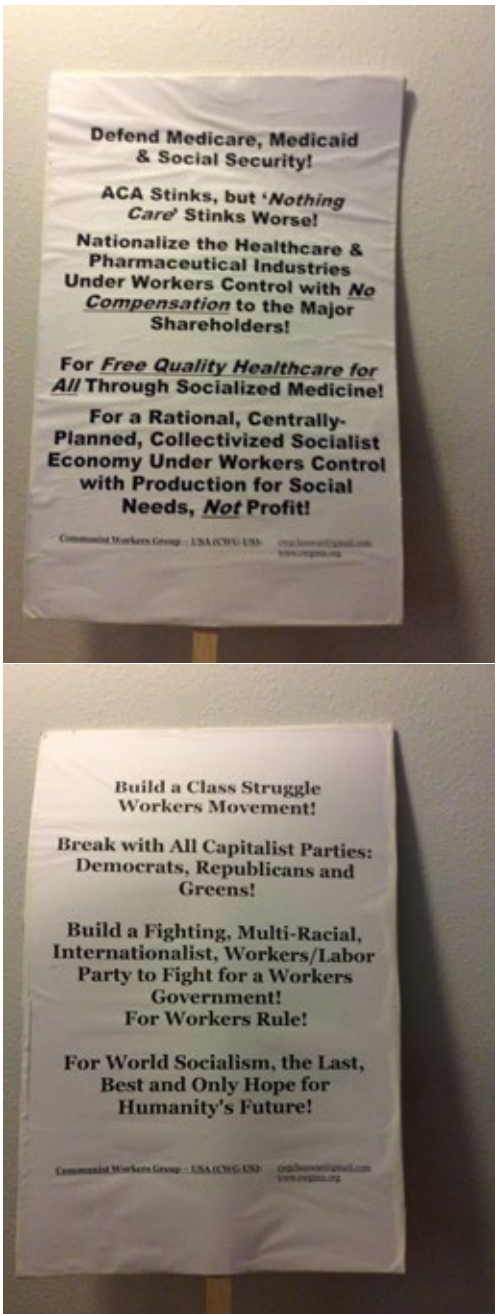
since the 2016 election, riding the Bernie Sanders bandwagon with far more opportunist skill than reformists such as Socialist Alternative. Now we see the centrist “third camp” League for a Revolutionary Party (LRP) supporters within the Transit Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 blocing with DSA and calling for the TWU leadership to mobilize the union and “Take the Lead and Call a March on Washington to Defend Healthcare.” The open letter to “John Samuelsen, TWU International and Local 100 President” mentions the Democrats zero times as it indulges in the typical ‘fight the right’ political rhetoric, avoiding the key question for the workers movement which is working class independence from all capitalist parties: Democrats, Republicans, Greens...all of them!

The trade unions and all the working class must be mobilized to defend and extend healthcare, but on what political basis? The mobilizations that DSA and the trade union bureaucrats envision is from a Democratic Party “Farce on Washington” straight into the voting booths in the next election cycle. This is not a united front, but the politics of the popular front, burying the workers program for free, quality healthcare for all with the liberal bourgeois populist “Medicare for All” demand. Even the call for ‘free, quality healthcare for all’ as the basis of a united front would be far superior to that of “Medicare for All,” which is neither free nor quality.

On Facebook, an LRP supporter justifies blocing with DSA by stating that “*For one thing, a big march would present an opportunity for revolutionary socialists to push for socialized medicine, and start winning over the more radical elements*” and that “*Workers have no reason to agree with communists at first encounter (or even 100th encounter). By going together through the experience of fighting for joint demands, revolutionary and not-yet-revolutionary workers can test out in practice what works and what does not. It’s essential that communists keep their political differences clear at all times.*”

Fair enough and the CWG does not disagree. But the LRP in the TWU letter buries political differences with the Democrats, the price of entry into a bloc with the DSA. Nothing is preventing socialists from marching with workers

whenever and wherever and they should intervene with their own socialist program when workers mobilize for their interests. But this is a different question than extending political support to what amounts to a popular front. A united front call would politically seek to exclude the bourgeoisie by drawing a class line. Of course in practice, it is impossible to exclude all bourgeois elements, but it should de facto politically exclude most of them. Any March on Washington led by the DSA and the class collaborationist trade union bureaucrats would see the LRP not standing on the socialist Mountain at the podium, but mired in the bourgeois Swamp and overwhelmed by the muck of Democratic Party politicians and their spokespersons.



## The Gutting of Iowa Public-Sector Unions: For Working Class Struggle to Defend Our Unions!

*“Let the labor unions put aside their illusions; let them face the issue squarely and fight it out on the basis of the class struggle. Instead of seeking peace when there is no peace, and “understanding” with those who do not want to understand, let them declare war on the whole capitalist regime. That is the way to save the unions and to make them grow in the face of adversity and become powerful war engines for the destruction of capitalism and the reorganization of society on the foundation of working class control in industry and government.”* – James P. Cannon, “Who Can Save the Unions? (1921)”

Republican Iowa Governor Branstad has always hated public sector workers, and particularly unionized workers. For decades, there was a running battle between Iowa Republican Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and AFSCME broken only by a decade when he was not in the governorship. Finally, in 2017, he got his deepest wish which was to curb the legal rights of the public-sector unions. The ascendancy of Trump to the imperialist Presidency also saw the Republicans sweep the Iowa legislature riding on a wave of social reaction. If anti-woman, racist Congressman Steve King is the poster-child of the reactionary Iowa right-wing, the Iowa State Legislature has its share of junior reactionaries. 2017 has seen a slew of reactionary bills introduced: SF 253 a ‘life begins at conception’ anti-abortion bill (now dead); SF 53 which bans abortion after 20 weeks (pending); SSB 1172 an anti-immigrant bill against “sanctuary” cities, counties, campuses (pending); HF 265 another anti-immigrant bill (pending); SSB 1170, HF 518 and HSB 169 an overhaul the state’s workers’ compensation (pending); SSB 1163 a voter ID bill (pending); HF 295 anti-local minimum wage bill (pending); HF 569/SF 463 public sector retirement. Branstad already privatized Medicaid in Iowa in 2016, which has been disastrous.

The one bill that was fast-tracked

through the legislature and quickly signed by Governor Branstad this year was HF 291, which while not outright making public sector unions illegal, effectively guts the public-sector unions. Iowa’s public sector labor law, Chapter 20, passed in 1974, was the product of illegal strikes at the time by public sector workers, notably teachers. Chapter 20 was passed by a Republican Senate and signed by a Republican Governor. It defined both mandatory and permissive subjects of bargaining, such as wages, overtime, safety, etc. Like any law under capitalism, it is double-edged. While granting formal, legal workers’ rights, it also was explicitly enacted to curb labor struggles (“...promote harmonious cooperative relationships between government and its employees...”), making strikes by public sector workers



Des Moines Labor Protest at the Capitol, Photo: Kelsey Kremer/AP

illegal and channeling workers struggle into the safe, peaceful, legal channels of the grievance procedure, the bargaining table and mandatory binding arbitration, having the effect of dispersing union power and solidarity. There are not a few trade unionists who will state that they look at their union as their lawyer. Iowa has also always been a ‘right to work’ state, so the labor movement has always been relatively weak.

In 2017, about 119,000 public sector workers in Iowa were unionized and covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Just as in Wisconsin, this number will undoubtedly fall dramatically with the new legislation. The new bill still allows bargaining on grievance procedures and seniority by agreement by both workers and the State, and does exclude firefighters (and of course the racist cops) from

many of the restrictions. HF 291 limits mandatory subjects of bargaining to wages alone (which is even capped at 3% or COLA, whichever is lower), and bans negotiating “over issues such as health insurance, evaluation procedures, staff reduction and leaves of absence for political purposes.” The dues checkoff is also not allowed and the unions will be required to recertify at the union’s expense before every contract. It is these last two that are especially harsh.

While labor unions should collect their own dues, truth is, the state of the labor movement is so wretched that many unions simply cannot do this. This is beyond the ability of the labor bureaucracy, so they trust the boss with the incoming union dues. Not only does this leave this in the power of the bosses, but it also identifies who is and who is not a union member, particularly in a ‘right to work’ slave state where union membership is completely mandatory. The dues checkoff is defensible for labor at this time, given not much of an alternative. The University of Iowa is the core of the organized public sector workers in Iowa, with three unions, AFSCME Local 12 that covers the “merit” blue collar and clerical, UE-COGS who represent the graduate student teaching assistants and SEIU 199 who represent the nurses. These bargaining units represent thousands of workers. Problem is, the University is very spread out. It is not like a centralized factory. Winning recertification elections every two years will be extremely difficult and costly. And with the collective bargaining agreements reduced to almost nothing, what incentive will there be to even support a union?

The anti-union HF 291 bill was passed and signed during the middle of collective bargaining sessions between the State of Iowa and AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees), SEIU (Service Employees International Union) and UE-COGS Local 896 (United Electrical – Campaign to Organize Graduate Students, the graduate teaching assistants’ union at the University of Iowa) for their new contracts. Of course,

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the state negotiators stalled to be able to negotiate under the new law. SEIU voted and ratified their contract before the bill's passage, but the state refused to honor it as the state had not yet signed. Both SEIU and AFSCME have filed lawsuits against the State of Iowa. SEIU sued over their contract and AFSCME to outright block the new bill.

Just like Wisconsin in 2011, the Iowa union-busting bill will serve as a ruling class blueprint for all out attacks on the entire labor movement and the entire working class!

The State of Iowa refused to bargain with UE-COGS Local 896, waiting until the bill passed. Then they came back with their first offer that cut everything in the contract: all leave, hours of work, the grievance procedure, safety, human rights and ending discrimination; all except the one remaining mandatory subject of bargaining, which is wages. The UE-COGS membership rightfully voted this down. Almost everything is now at the whim of the University, the Board of Regents and the State of Iowa, including health insurance. This comes in the wake of Branstad's hand-picked Board of Regents' appointment of J. Bruce Harreld as the new University of Iowa President in 2015.

As Class War, journal of the Communist Workers Group U.S. stated in 2015 about Harreld's appointment:

*"The search process was obviously a setup from day one, as the University search committee went through the motions and fast-tracked the appointment of Harreld, a career corporate executive who lacks credible academic experience. He fits the bill very well for Branstad, who is privatizing Medicaid in Iowa. What Harreld will do remains to be seen, but Harreld says explicitly that the University needs 'to shift all of the practices, policies, procedures and culture.' This is business-speak for workers, faculty and students getting the shaft. In the context of an education funding shortage and for a University that has been cutting staff and privatizing since the 1990's, Harreld's appointment signals future intransigence. Workers will get it in the neck; and as the quality of education declines, students will discover they have*

*new debts, as tuition and fees will continue to increase to counter the impending shortfall that Branstad is committed to imposing. Harreld's installation comes in the wake of the Deloitte fiasco, which was a scheme to make cuts, as is the TIER project."* – Class War Supplement, Nov 2015, *"Abolish the Iowa Board of Regents! No to Cuts in Education!"*

And this has come to pass. The University of Iowa tried to screw students out of their scholarships, but went a little too far as public outcry forced them to retract. No worries for the University Administration though. They plan to make that up with tuition increases.

### **The Union Bureaucracy: "Labor Lieutenants of Capital"**

The response of the union leaderships in Iowa to the attacks on the public-sector unions has been the same old song and dance they have been engaged in for decades. With five years to prepare for what was coming after Walker's Wisconsin, the labor leadership resorted to rallies at the State Capitol and legislative forums, phone-banking to the members to contact legislators and lawsuits. Wisconsin saw mass protests of over 100,000 in 2011 and that was not enough to halt the decimation of Wisconsin labor. Just as the Recall in Wisconsin was peddled by the Democratic Party labor-fakers as the way forward, electing Democrats in the next election cycle will be on the agenda for the labor-skates in Iowa as always. The strategy of class collaboration with the Democratic Party of the bosses did not work in Wisconsin and electoral politics and "fighting" right-wing Republicans with Democrats in Iowa is not going to cut it either.

There were rallies of over a thousand workers in Iowa against the union-busting legislation. But what is needed is power, not protest alone. "Scott Walker, the anti-union Governor of Wisconsin, in 2011 said he didn't care how many protestors marched around the capitol and he really didn't. Protests and demonstrations should be an opportunity to discuss, debate and build the struggle, not "moral suasion" rallies. What was needed in Wisconsin was mass strike action." The rallies should have been turned into workers assemblies to organize action/struggle and strike committees to build

united labor political strike actions to defeat the anti-union, anti-working class social reaction. The three unions at the University of Iowa were incapable of even forming an inter-union committee. Such is the dearth of labor leadership.

And where is the Iowa City Federation of Labor (ICFL), the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council in Johnson County (where the University of Iowa is located)? Instead of a working-class organization of solidarity and struggle, there was little attempt to build opposition on the ground. UE-COGS Local 896, the graduate students, organized a rally in defense of their contract, but except for some UAW brothers and sisters, faculty, and a few other trade unionists, the local labor leadership was largely absent. Certainly, nothing the like numbers they mobilize for the annual ICFL Chili Supper, where Democratic Party politicians dine at the workers' expense. As a Teamster official stated (who wanted to remain anonymous): *"...I had to leave the Iowa City Federation of Labor (ed. Facebook) group because, and I think it necessary af to say, these people are obsessed with legislation and the electoral process. Labor has not been served well at all by the legislative process. The page seems like a Stalinist relic, nothing but posts about what new bad thing is happening in the legislature. No discussion allowed of other alternatives, strike support, theory, direct action not having to do with electoral politics."*

The largest labor union local in Iowa, Teamsters Local 238, are prominent in the leadership of the Iowa City Fed. Instead of solidarity and organizing a fight to save the public-sector unions, they have apparently washed their hands of the whole business. In the wake of the union-busting legislation, the Teamsters have unrolled not organizing, action and strike committees to defend the public sector unions, but TeamCan. TeamCan held an event on March 18th, which *"marked an exciting day for the Iowa progressive movement. Iowa Teamsters Local 238 Secretary Treasurer, Jesse Case, unveiled the new 501(c)3 Teamsters Community Action Network, or TeamCan. The event was attended by nearly 200 leaders and activists representing labor unions, civil rights groups, environmentalists, progressive religious leaders, and many recent local start-ups working to fight the Trump/Koch agenda at every level."* Talk

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about not dealing with the question of the day in Iowa which is **DEFENDING OUR PUBLIC-SECTOR UNIONS!**

TeamCan is a vehicle for supporting the Democrats in the next elections. What makes anyone think that the pro-capitalist labor bureaucracy is in any way making a political break from the Democrats? If they were, they would be advocating for a workers party. IUPAT (Painters) Local 10 in Portland have passed a resolution calling for a break from the bosses Republican and Democratic parties and for a **“class struggle workers party”**. No such thing from the Teamsters. In fact, Hoffa slavishly congratulated Trump *“on his victory.”* He went on to say *“Americans have voted, and we respect their choice at the ballot box. The Teamsters will work with President-elect Trump on numerous issues essential to the nation’s workers in an effort to improve the lives of millions who continue to struggle to make ends meet.”*

The political method of the Teamster bureaucracy in Iowa was demonstrated in Johnson County where the Iowa City Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO Central Labor Council), of which the Teamsters are a major affiliated union, with the liberal elected Democratic Party county officials pushed not even \$15, but the Iowa Democratic Party’s \$10.10 per hour minimum wage. The Johnson County local labor-skates were pushing for the \$10 as far back as 2012 at least. It was passed by the County in 2015 and the \$10.10 wage was reached in 2017. What can be said for a labor “leadership” that cannot even index their demand to inflation over a five-year period? Actually, the minimum wage in Johnson County wasn’t realized because the minimum wage was largely unenforceable (even the Democratic Party state Labor Commissioner said so), the University thumbed their nose at it, and businesses that honored it did so for whatever reason (public perception, already paying the wage). The method is to use liberal activism to prop up local and state Democratic Party politicians to bolster a political party of the bosses (the Democrats) that has been largely discredited. Now the local minimum wage laws are likely going to be undone by the Iowa Legislature with HF 295 which would ban cities and counties

from passing minimum wage ordinances. Either way, this is not how workers have traditionally raised their standard of living which has been through struggle and organizing unions, not a sub-living poverty minimum wage. It is a diversion from what is necessary. Where are the union organizing committees?

American socialist Daniel De Leon’s characterized the labor bureaucracy as the **“labor lieutenants of the capitalist class”**. The labor bureaucracy is a parasitic, privileged, pro-capitalist layer within the workers’ movement. They are a transmission belt for capitalist ideology in the workers’ movement and are an obstacle to working class independence and workers struggle. The class collaborationist ideology permeates from the top highly paid union officials down through the lower layers of unpaid, local elected officials who also hold regular jobs. As a contradictory caste within a working-class organization, the bureaucracy can encompass anyone from honest trade union militants, particularly at the local levels, to business unionist hacks.

As a caste, the union bureaucracy overwhelmingly identifies its interests more with the class enemy than with the vast mass of unorganized, highly exploited workers as they push “labor-management” class collaboration and tie the labor movement to the Democratic Party (and sometimes the Republican) of the bosses. Their answers to attacks on labor are impotent rallies, lobbying, elections and legislation...anything and everything except the class struggle methods that built the labor movement.

The CWG wrote in Class War, Vol 1, No 5 in 2013 about the Chicago Teachers’ strike:

*“This is the bankrupt political methodology of the parasitic, pro-capitalist union bureaucracy that has dragged the labor movement to defeat after defeat. In virtually every labor struggle, the first thing these labor-fakers postulate are “talk shop” rallies with some kind of electoral strategy, which translates into “we don’t need working class struggle, let’s elect ‘labor-friendly’ politicians (mostly Democrats).” This was clearly the case in the Wisconsin Recall diversion, as well as in Michigan battle over “right to scab (work)”, where*

*the AFL-CIO and Change to Win labor federation tops caved in.”*

Another example of class collaboration from Iowa in Johnson County in 2013 is quoted from Class War:

*“The labor lieutenants’ dutifully endorsed attacks on public services is exemplified by the 2013 Johnson County disabled paratransit SEATS cuts at the hands of the Democratic Party County Supervisors, where the ICFL (ed. Iowa City Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO Central Labor Council) did not mobilize against the cuts to a vital unionized public service, but instead fed a free Chili supper to County Supervisor Rod Sullivan, the initiator of the cuts and point man at the county level. 24 hours after the news of the cuts hit the press, Sullivan was eating the workers’ beans at the annual ICFL Chili Supper mobilization of the Democratic Party politicians.” – Class War, Vol 1, No 4, Mar 2013, “Cuts to SEATS: Build a class struggle leadership of our unions!”*

### **Class Struggle is the Way Forward!**

The CWG wrote in 2015:

*“This school year marks the eighth anniversary of the generalized crisis of the capitalist system. This is what the kept bourgeois press calls the “Great Recession of 2008-2009.” But we notice that the cuts go on and the recovery does not include rehiring what are now long-term unemployed. The mushrooming growth of the precariat who exist at a subsistence or lower rate of pay is counted as a reduced unemployment statistic. College students graduate with overwhelming debt and few job prospects. The full-time working population has seen their wage package stagnate while their benefits and hours have been under continuous attack. Thus adjunct faculty finds they have greater workloads for less pay and many suddenly find themselves unemployed. This is the future in store for many university workers in Harreld’s promised program of changes.” – Class War Supplement, Nov 2015, “Abolish the Iowa Board of Regents! No to Cuts in Education!”*

Capitalism is not in crisis because of bad policies and will not be rectified by electing ‘progressive’ politicians or passing legislation to ‘tax the rich’ or

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*Cont. from pg. 14 Public Sector Unions...*

redistribute wealth. The crisis is grounded in the good old-fashioned capitalist law of the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall (TRPTF) identified by Karl Marx. Profit comes from the extraction of surplus value from labor. As capitalists invest in machinery in order increase productivity to compete with other capitalists, the overall tendency of the rate of profit tends to fall as the ratio of labor, what Marx called the “*organic composition of capital*”, decreases. Hence, lower profit rates so the capitalists either do not invest in new social production and hoard their money or invest in speculation. To restore the rate of profit, capitalists must destroy the value of accumulated unproductive capital (i.e. closing factories, etc.), by war if necessary. Capitalist crisis are part of the system itself, with each crisis tending to become longer, deeper and worse and threatening the “*whole culture of mankind*.” Inter-imperialist tensions are rising again and the prospect of another world war. If nuclear weapons do not reduce the world to rubble, there is the gloomy prospect of climate destruction that may already be too late to remediate. In the meantime, the capitalist ruling class is hell-bent on grinding down the working class and destroying decades of social gains in the pursuit of profit, while their cops and ICE agents terrorize the black, brown and immigrant communities.

What is needed is to build a class struggle leadership of our unions and among the broader working class and oppressed black, brown and immigrant communities. Socialist and labor historian Art Preis wrote in his history of the CIO, “Labor’s Giant Step” about the “*men from nowhere*” who arose to lead the militant strikes that built the industrial unions. And that is what is needed today, a new generation of the women and men from nowhere to lead today’s struggles.

**Build inter-union action/struggle committees to educate, organize, agitate and lead the labor political strikes that are needed to defeat the attacks of Capital and to defend our unions! For democratically elected strike committees with leadership subject to immediate recall! For mass workers assemblies to discuss, debate and decide the way forward!**

**Revive the class struggle tactics that built the unions: For picket lines that no one crosses! For mass picket lines, sit-down strikes, flying picket squads, hot-cargoing, solidarity strikes, indefinite general strikes and defiance of the bosses’ courts/laws. Defy the injunctions! Smash Taft-Hartley and all other anti-labor laws through militant labor struggle! “The only illegal strike is the one that loses!” No to binding arbitration! No reliance on the courts or NLRB/PERB!**

**Build class struggle union committees and caucuses within our unions to build a fighting labor leadership. Advance a workers political program of historic workers transitional demands that point the way towards workers power:**

**For a 30 hour workweek at 40 hours pay to spread the work around! For a living wage at the prevailing union rate, including guaranteed pensions that can’t be taken away!**

**Free quality healthcare for all! For socialized medicine to include free abortion on demand and full reproductive services! Equal pay for equal work! Free quality 24-hour childcare! For fully paid maternity leave!**

**Defend immigrant rights! For mass labor, black and brown mobilizations to stop La Migra raids and deportations! For full citizenship rights for all immigrants! No to English-only bigotry! Same work, same contract across borders! For joint Canadian, American, Mexican and Central American labor struggle!**

**Build for the indefinite general strike to implement these demands! The only illegal strike is the one that loses! Cops and campus security out of schools! No to racist Stop and Frisk! Organize labor, black and brown workers self-defense guards via the Campus Community Assembly against racist cop, fascist and vigilante terror!**

**Unite the struggle with the broader working class! None of these demands can be won without a united multi-racial working class struggle to defend all social gains, such as education, and extend them via jobs for all!**

**Break with all capitalist parties: Democrats, Republicans and Greens! Build a fighting Internationalist Workers/Labor Party to fight for a workers government! For workers rule!**

As American Trotskyist James Cannon wrote of the famous 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strike:

*“Our people didn’t believe in anybody or anything but the policy of the class struggle and the ability of the workers to prevail by their mass strength and solidarity. Consequently, they expected from the start that the union would have to fight for its right to exist; that the bosses would not yield any recognition to the union, would not yield any increase of wages or reduction of the scandalous hours without some pressure being brought to bear. Therefore they prepared everything from the point of view of class war. They knew that power, not diplomacy, would decide the issue. Bluffs don’t work in fundamental things, only in incidental ones. In such things as the conflict of class interests one must be prepared to fight.*

*Proceeding from these general concepts, the Minneapolis Trotskyists, in the course of organizing the workers, planned a battle strategy. Something unique was seen in Minneapolis for the first time. That is, a strike that was thoroughly organized beforehand, a strike prepared with the meticulous detail which they used to attribute to the German army—down to the last button sewn on the uniform of the last individual soldier. When the hour of the deadline came, and the bosses thought they could still maneuver and bluff, our people were setting up a fortress for action....”*

1 WHO-TV, “Some Bills Dead and Others Still Alive after First Legislative Funnel” <http://whotv.com/2017/03/03/some-bills-dead-and-others-still-alive-after-first-legislative-funnel>

2 Iowa Labor History Oral Project <https://soundcloud.com/ilhop>

3 Iowa Starting Line, “What Iowa’s “Chapter 20” Is And Why It’s Important To Workers: An Explainer”

<http://iowastartingline.com/2017/01/12/what-iowas-chapter-20-is-and-why-its-important-to-workers-an-explainer/>

Cont. from pg. 15 Public Sector Unions...

4 Des Moines Register, "Iowa House, Senate approve sweeping collective bargaining changes"

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2017/02/16/amid-marathon-debate-iowa-legislature-barrels-towards-passing-collective-bargaining-bill/97984338/>

5 UE-COGS Local 896, "Here are the University's and Regents' proposed cuts to OUR benefits"

<http://cogs.org/2017/02/25/here-are-the-universitys-and-regents-proposed-cuts-to-our-benefits>

6 Press Citizen, "UI's next move could be tuition hike"

<http://www.press-citizen.com/story/news/education/university-of-iowa/2017/03/02/university-of-iowa-tuition-increase-fees-starting-2018/98645338/>

7 Des Moines Register, "Teachers, supporters rally at Capitol to stop collective bargaining changes"

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/education/2017/02/12/teachers-supporters-rally-capitol-stop-collective-bargaining-changes/97827606/>

8 Class War Supplements, November, 2015, "Abolish the Iowa Board of Regents! No to Cuts in Education!"

<http://www.cwgusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2015-11-LEAF-CWG-UniversityofIowaBOR-FINAL01.pdf>

9 Oakland Socialist, "IUPAT Local 10: 'build a class struggle workers party'"

<https://oaklandsocialist.com/2016/09/18/iupat-local-10-build-a-class-struggle-workers-party/>

10 Teamsters, "Hoffa: Teamsters Will Work With President-Elect on Worker Issues"

<https://teamster.org/news/2016/11/hoffa-teamsters-will-work-president-elect-worker-issues>

11 Karl Marx, Capital Vol. III, "Part III. The Law of the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall"

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1894-c3/ch13.htm>

Cont. from pg. 1 Syria Solidarity...

goon action of superior numbers. Moments later and still surrounded they were tossed onto 24th street and locked out. A fifth member was later ejected as well. It is likely that only the phone camera recording of some of these scenes prevented more injurious aggression, as the tankies were aware of the video recording and calls were heard to "Smash their phones!"

Watchers of tankie antics may also wish to note that among the five ejected was the ONLY Syrian who attended the event!

Long known for cheering on every Stalinist repression in the days of the Warsaw Pact deformed Workers states, WWP was joined on this occasion by Assad junket "journalists" such as Trish Schuh, whose regime-handout-rewrites have been compounded in "Esquire." And of course possibly the very last New York member of the neo-Barnesite "Socialist Action" was there for the WWP force festivity, and he denounced Syria Solidarity International as being "on NATO's payroll." This allegation is truly slanderous; ***the Syria Solidarity International demands all imperialist forces out of Syria!*** Consider how the NATO forces of the "International Coalition" have caused more casualties in rebel held areas in 2017 than all of the Assad-supporting armed forces combined.

You can't bother this crowd with any such facts or any facts. Socialist Action's position is that they would support a Syrian revolution if there was one (!!!!), but they support Assad against U.S. imperialism. Along with WWP they snort at the mention of Russian imperialism (and their guy did at this meeting) and behave as if the 1991 counterrevolutionary capitalist restoration has no especial consequence or bearing on the role of Russia in 21st century Middle Eastern affairs. For WWP, Russia is "anti-imperialist" in a monopolar, one superpower world and not the senior nuclear power in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the China-Russia imperialist bloc. As Trump withdraws the C.I.A. training mission from Syria, announced by the Washington Post on 7/19, we wonder how these Putinpals will maintain their left poses as



*Aleppo: The "Putin Left" bears much responsibility for abandoning the Syrian masses to imperialism and the brutal Assad dictatorship.*

Trump increasingly "let (s) Russia take care of Syria."

The pro-Assad forces on the U.S. 'left' bear great responsibility for the insulation of the working masses from revolutionary theory and the lessons of class memory on how to put theory into practice. Workers World Party has for more than 50 years performed the role of a classic ultraleft tendency, at once the most strident of the neo-Stalins in a crowded field of sects, while also routinely supporting pet liberal Democrats for office. Last month when the racist right "ACT For America" made their flop appearance in lower Manhattan and were denounced by a thousand leftists and some brave immigrants, WWP tried to look like the champions of Middle Eastern refugees. Problem was, as we said at the time, their hero Assad is the easily greatest single cause of refugees in the 21st century. This disqualifies them from any prospective united front for immigrant defense, itself a halfway-or-less measure when there is an objective need and limited time to crush fascist organizations in the egg with Labor-Black-and-Brown community defense guards.

Tendencies that do not recognize a revolution in progress and tendencies who oppose revolutions and support the revolutionaries' class enemies are out of the revolution business, no matter what their record was in the past! New revolutionary upsurges will not care about Che Guevara T-shirts on the has beens and the never-was groups, and the vanguard forces will already be 'onto' them and the games they substitute for Marxism and its method. Into "the dustbin of history" they will go.

*Cont. from pg. 1 Brazil Education...*

Of the categories of public servants who were being attacked by the government, the teachers are the largest and the union (CPERS) is the strongest. Many hopes of the state's civil service as a whole were invested in the strength and capacity of struggle and mobilization of teachers and CPERS.

At that time, we participated in the BLTP and we were already fighting for the maintenance of the BLTP as a United Front (UF) of the movement and that it was for ALL the struggles and not only for municipal transportation, because the youth struggle against the steep increase of fare had already surpassed this single demand and had already culminated in the June Conference which said that "It is not only for R \$ 0.20". Our proposal that the BLTP be an alternative to the PT and to fight against the right that was already organized to overthrow the government was totally ignored. In the same way, we thought that the BLE should maintain the character of a UF and that it was for the struggle of all the workers who suffered from the Sartori government attacks.

Seeing the great indignation of the government bureaucracy's managerial layer and with the division of salaries and the realization of historical assemblies, the union bureaucracy rushed to form the Unified Movement of the Public Servants (UM), that was the union of the bureaucracy, including representatives of the police, saying that that Movement was the "unity" of the workers. It turned out that the movement was defeated. Workers were tied to bureaucratic agreements and blocs and did not develop grassroots organizations, pickets, which could be an independent and democratic alternative against the union bureaucracy. Two weeks after the CPERS assembly with more than 10,000 workers, the strike of the educators ended in a new assembly with maneuvers and anti-democratic actions by the CUT-ista union director, who decreed the end of the strike, even though the majority voted for the strike to continue.

Since the union bureaucracy was organized with representatives of the police in UM to crush the movement, we defended the BLE as a United Front among leftist organizations, activists and militants as an alternative for organizing

workers against government attacks and betrayal by the trade union bureaucracy.

MU's trade union leadership dominated demonstrations in front of the government's Palace and Legislative Assembly (ALERS); the actions were being sapped and the strikes were being dismantled. Leftist organizations opposing the CUT-ista leadership at CPERS were dispersed. Some are part of MU, such as CS and Intersindical. We said that leftist organizations should not give any support to the MU bureaucratic bloc and build the Fighting Bloc as an United Front. However, this did not happen. The BLE was composed only of CPERS minority organizations and some militants and independents.

During the year 2016, the government's attacks on government officials followed. The secondary students organized a great movement of occupation of schools. The teachers went on strike for more than 50 days. However, the general movement of state public servants has weakened. The BLE held sporadic meetings and some actions. Our intervention in the BLE this past year year focused on the conjuncture of the class struggle, the program of struggle and the need to overcome the union bureaucracy.

### Conjuncture

We are constantly insisting on the need to educate workers about the current situation of the class struggle in Brazil and in the world. We live the greatest capitalist crisis in history, where imperialist capitalism has no other choice but to attack the working class hard, leading it to misery and suffering. A global crisis of capitalism that also leads to confrontation and war between the imperialist powers, notably in the military escalation between the U.S. / U.S.-led bloc and the China / Russia bloc. Workers are being attacked around the world with plans for austerity, loss of rights and repression. With examples such as in Greece, Spain and the Middle East.

In the same way, the Brazilian workers were and are being attacked. After the elections that re-elected Dilma in 2014, workers began to suffer from austerity plans, inflation and the threats of pension, labor and outsourcing "reforms." In the states and municipalities, wage

payments, payment delays and withdrawals began. In the state of Rio de Janeiro ("RJ"), workers were being attacked as in Rio Grande do Sul (state of Rio Grande do Sul-- "RS"), with active workers having their wages paid late and retirees not receiving their benefits at all. Just as in RS, in Rio de Janeiro, the union bureaucracy united with police representatives and formed the MUSP (Unified Movement of Public Servants). These attacks continue today in the states and in the federal government with the Temer regime.

### A PROGRAM OF STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATION

Education in Brazil has undergone a reform to the neoliberal molds in the last 25 years. The Fernando Henrique Cardoso government opened schools and universities to foundations of private initiative and began the process of precarious education. This reform not only did not end during the 13 years of the PT's administration, but it was quickly deepened. With a "democratic" bias through the Regional and National Conferences of Education, the National Education Plan (PNE) was approved, the neoliberal plan for privatization and outsourcing.

During this period, the privatization of education has grown exponentially; Brazil's KROTON is now one of the world's largest business groups in privatized education, and it could only grow in this way with the amount of public money received through government programs that fed the so-called "teaching sharks."

At the same time, in public education, workers and students suffer from class and schools closures, meritocracy, scrapping of facilities, outsourcing, interference of private initiative foundations in schools, low wages and withdrawal of pension rights. Throughout the PT government era, union leaders, through the National Confederation of Workers in Education (CNTE), while striving to approve PNE in Education Conferences, mobilized workers to conquer the National Education Salary Floor, which camouflages the law that implants the premise of the end of career plans, deceiving the teachers with the perspective of better salary, while in fact with the end of career plans, the law transformed the floor to the pension

*Cont. from pg. 17 Brazil Education...*

ceiling. Upon assuming the government, Temer quickly approved the Reform of Secondary Education, another attack on the sector, continuing the dismantling of Brazilian public education.

All of our interventions in the BLE focused on the educational reform that the country has undergone in recent decades, applied by all governments (municipal, state and federal). We held the discussion at the BLE and proposed conducting seminars and activities in schools to discuss and build a program to combat the dismantling of public education and precariousness in living and working conditions.

### **THE STRUGGLE AGAINST UNION BUREAUCRACY**

In order for the workers to win the struggle against the attacks of the bourgeoisie and its governments, they must break with their bureaucratic leadership and form independent, democratic grassroots organizations.

We advocate that the BLE should promote committees, strike pickets in schools and forms of organization and intervention in the struggle that are independent and democratic and of unity with workers of other categories and with students. We insisted on this proposal when the educators went on strike for more than 50 days in 2016 and the students occupied the schools in a true united front in a great movement against the reform of high school and against the attacks on education.

Grassroots, independent and democratic organizations were the most important task for the BLE to unite workers and youth in the struggle against government and bureaucracy. The treacherous misleaders were already united in the MU to make agreement with the government and to demobilize the workers and to dismantle the strikes in 2015. In 2016, during the school occupations, the leadership of the CPERS used the union apparatus, along with the National Union of the Students (UNE, commanded by PCdoB), to bring students from various cities of the state on buses that came to an assembly of teachers, and hold a “school occupations assembly.” After this assembly, the school occupations movement was

diverted to an ALERS occupation by the students, and one day later the UNE and other student bodies reached an agreement to end the occupations. At the same time, the CPERS leadership ended up with the possibility of picketing on-strike schools with an occupation of the State Administrative Center, which lasted a week culminating in an assembly that ended the strike which had lasted more than 50 days. The rank-and-file students who occupied the schools still tried to resist, denouncing the agreement of the entities that did not represent them, and they ended up isolated diverted into the occupation of the secretariat of Administration building, ending with a strong repression by the police apparatus and with arrests and legal proceedings against the activists.

The CPERS CUTista leadership joined the union bureaucracy and police in the MU in the public servants’ movement and with the UNE and bureaucratic student bodies, such as UMESPA (Municipal Union of Students of Porto Alegre) controlled by the PPL party, the bourgeois “Free Homeland Party,”) taking control of the movement and without the participation of the base. The leftist organizations that oppose the union and the UNE did not come together and became diluted in the movement, without differentiating from the treacherous leaderships. Some were even part of MU. , as CS (Movimento Convergência Socialista) and Intersindical and even of the bloc of entities that made agreement with the government to end the occupations, like the MONTH (socialist left movement, a front of PSOL).

At the end of 2016, when the Sartori government presented another “pacotão” with withdrawals of rights, extinction of foundations and privatization of state-owned companies such as CEEE and Companhia Mineradora, the civil servants mobilized and held large demonstrations in front of the Government Palace and the ALERS, which were severely repressed by the police. The movement was once again hostage of the bureaucratic bloc of misleaders. The BLE remained a minority, with no influence and ability to bring together the base and with very few activities.

In March 2017, teachers began another salary campaign and at the general assembly of the category voted for

strike. Once again the opposition to the leadership of the CPERS and the BLE were no alternative of organization and struggle. The strike lasted two weeks and ended demoralized. The opposition and the bloc had yet to try any joint mobilization, and the main issue was already the union elections that would take place in June.

### **METHOD AND DEMOCRACY IN BLE**

Election for union leadership has arrived. And that lack of differentiation and unity of the left opposition during the demonstrations and vigil in front of the government palace and the ALERS ended. The opposition appeared making several criticisms of the current leadership slate and some unity developed.

With what method and program did the slates and unity appear among the CPERS opposition?

Since the beginning of the 2000s the opposition has organized against the CUT-ista leadership that commanded the union for 20 years. In 2008, one of the main currents of opposition, was the CS (Movimento Convergência Socialista), which made an agreement with a current PT / CUT, DS (today MLS),<sup>1</sup> to make a slate in the union’s elections. Under the agreement, it was foreseen that the eventual administration (in the case of victory) would not make any discussion of discontinuance of the CPERS in the governing CUT body. After a crisis between the opposition forces, the other currents accepted the agreement, PSTU, Intersindical (PSOL), CEDS. The slate won the elections and commanded the union for two administrations (6 years). Due to the alliance with the PT’s (DS) governing sectors, the 6 years of opposition administration left the fight against the PNE and adopted the PT policy of “National Education Floor,” the main PT policy in education, while at the same time approving the PNE .

*1 The MLS (Socialist Struggle Movement) was part of the DS (Socialist Democracy, PT current, Unified Secretariat of the Fourth International), with whom PSTU and PSOL allied themselves in the CPERS elections in 2008. CPERS DS militants broke with PT in 2014 and formed the MLS. Today they are a syndical current and are part of CONLUTAS.*

*Cont. from pg. 18 Brazil Education...*

In 2014, the “opposition” lost the election, the DS (Socialist Democracy - USec) militants broke with the PT and formed the MLS. With the opposition already out of the leadership of the union and the MLS outside the PT, the debate took place against the CUT and the Central Parade, with a depoliticized debate, amid the right-wing offensive against the PT government and a dispute with huge apparatuses.

In the election in 2017, the Slate 1 (opposition) had votes almost equal to that won by the union tops who led the apparatus for 6 years. With the exception of the non-participation of CS, who since the end of the administration maintained a bureaucratic dispute for the head of the slate with the MLS. This dispute has prevented the unity of these currents since the last election when they disputed the apparatus separately and lost the leadership to the CUT / PT in 2014. The program of the slate was centered in vindicating the administration of 2008/2011, without any self-criticism.

The majority of the currents opposing the leadership of the CUTistas, MLS, CS, PSTU, Intersindical, CEDS, were never part of the BLE and was not able to drive and offer a fighting alternative for the workers. However, to dispute the apparatus, they made a plenary and formed unity for a slate. Organizations that are part of the BLE, such as PCB and CST, have made up the slate. The Struggle for the Base, which is part of the opposition, led the team to release Slate 4, but neither built the BLE nor another alternative for the category.

Most of the organizations that are part of the BLE have positioned themselves in defense of Slate 1. The BLE positioned itself to support the opposition slate (Slate 1) and Slate 4, of Struggle For the Base. However, the bloc did not perform during the elections, had no program of its own to present the category or competing slates, and its formal position was not publicized. In practice, the BLE did not have a differentiation of the opposition slates and served as support of the Slate of 1 without any criticism and differentiation.

The composition of the slate that won the election in 2008 came after several

years of organization of the opposition to CUT in the union, which due to the capitulation of CS, ended up forming a coalition with current CUTista / PT, which is now the MLS. During six years of administration, the leadership did not debate the CUT and disbanded the center that was defended by the opposition, due to a CS agreement with DS, followed by other currents, PSTU, CEDS, Intersindical, etc. This debate ended up happening after losing the elections in 2014 and the rupture of the DS, which came to be called MLS.

In the current editorial dispute, Slate 1 claimed its record in office and declared to be the best for the educators. The support of BLE and the participation of the currents that integrate the slate came without any criticism and / or differentiation of this policy.

After the election to the union leadership, the process began for the election of the representatives in the General Council, one of the most important instances in the union. The BLE decided to launch a slate.

**Our proposal is to seize the moment to bring together the leftist opposition to the CUTista leadership of the union, discussing a program to combat the attacks on education and mobilization of the educators. An opportunity to turn BLE into a true united front.**

Most of the bloc's organizations have opposed it. Even organizations that participated in the Slate 1 training agreement, which participated in the slate without any criticism, show resistance to other organizations coming into the BLE.

As for our proposal to discuss a program for the BLE slate for the General Council, we were severely attacked, called “liars” and “maneuverers” in the meetings, as the BLE decision would be that the meeting would be “only to choose the names for the slate”.

Our interventions in the BLE, analysis of the conjuncture, proposal of organization and defense of the bloc as a united front that would gather all the currents, militants and activists in left opposition to the leadership of the CPERS and the bureaucracy of the unions of the public servants has been heavily attacked by anti-democratic methods within the bloc,

including attempts at expulsion.

The election of the CPERS is over, the leadership has been reelected and the attacks of the Sartori government continue.

The MU union bureaucracy continues to command the movement. While destroying strikes and keeping workers at work disorganized and demobilized, trade union leaders gather in front of the Government Palace and ALERS during voting on government measures. The pamphlets and materials of the opposition that we saw during the union's election campaign have disappeared, and all appear together, without any differentiation.

Our proposal in the BLE is for the unity of left oppositionists in CPERS in a true United Front: A unity that brings together the organizations and the base, that there be a discussion in which everyone can put their positions clearly and democratically, a unity that serves not only for the disputes of the union apparatus, but for the fight against the attacks of the government and the bourgeoisie. We stand for a unity that goes beyond the category of teachers but encompasses all the workers who are under the government's thumb. Our proposal has nothing to do with an agreement between currents, where we do not have a clear discussion and a program of struggle for the base, which we criticize in Slate 1. On the contrary, our proposal has the objective that the BLE is a true united front, which presents a clear analysis of the conjuncture and a program against government measures that is independent of the trade union bureaucracy and does not become a bloc in which the base does not participate but prevails, (does not become) an agreement between the currents, preventing the participation of all who want to fight.

We are taking stock of the BLE and the general public service movement of the state of RS, which is an example of the workers movement across the country. The PT and CUT are the leaders of the workers' movement in Brazil. The 13-year PT government of the Popular Front with sections of the bourgeoisie has pushed back the class consciousness of Brazilian workers. For years, they have led workers to abandon their independence and methods of class struggle (strikes,

Cont. from pg. 19 Brazil Education...

pickets, occupations) and instead to rely on parliamentary action in the bourgeois democratic regime.

The left that says opposition to the PT was not able to present an independent policy, in many cases capitulated to the PT and CUT, adopting their narratives.

The bourgeoisie and the media that with a parliamentary maneuver overthrew Dilma, said that without the PT in power the economic and political crisis would end. Obviously this has not happened, the economic crisis in Brazil is part of the global crisis of capitalism. The living conditions of workers are worsening and attacks are increasing. The PT campaign for “Fora Temer” and “Lula 2018” relies on the years before the onset of the global crisis of capitalism in 2008, with the boom in the sale of commodities to China and the abundance of credit, which Capital obviously will not be capable of re-creating.

The bourgeoisie and the media who defended the car wash<sup>2</sup> and overthrew Dilma and the PT, now clutch at the Temer government and its allies, like the PSDB. The PT continues with its Popular Front policy, joining the “democratic” bourgeoisie against car wash, for “democracy” and “national sovereignty”, while fascism grows and workers are left unarmed to fight a real coup d’état. In the very direction of CPERS, the PT is together with the bourgeois PDT party. The PT and the Popular Front are not able to stop fascism, on the contrary, they demoralize and demobilize the workers and open the way for fascism.

Workers must break with their reformist leadership and organize independently of the bourgeoisie, form committees in the workplace, committees of self-defense, and go on general strike for an indefinite period. A United Front that organizes

the struggle nationally is fundamental to overcoming the bureaucratic bloc of centrals (labor councils) that has controlled the struggles and led to demoralization and demobilization, as has now occurred in the betrayal by the central of the general strike of 06/30/17.

It is necessary to break with the bureaucratic and undemocratic methods of the left that promotes the unprincipled blocs, according to the currents, that excludes the base and that leads to the boycott and destruction of the true United Front as happened with the Forum of Struggles in Rio de Janeiro in 2013, and with the BLTP in Porto Alegre, the struggle of students in school occupations or workers in many strikes.

The General Strike of 6/30 was betrayed by the bureaucratic bloc of Trade Union Centers where the workers’ base cannot participate. The reform that removes labor rights was approved at the congress and we see the PT increasingly deepening its alliances with sectors of the bourgeoisie to get rid of the car wash and direct the struggle of the workers into the illusion that the bourgeois democratic regime can improve the life of the working class. A revolutionary party is necessary in Brazil that leads the workers to break with the PT and to the seizure of power for a true Workers’ Government.

We call on the trade union leadership, organizations and left-wing parties to provide an alternative struggle for the workers, with a true United Front, to bring the class together in a National Congress, with delegates elected by the base, to carry out a program of struggle that it adopts. Methods of working-class struggle with committees for workplaces, self-defense committees, and pickets, and an indefinite General Strike to overthrow the government, the bourgeoisie, and fascism too.



<sup>2</sup> “Operation Car Wash (Portuguese: Operação Lava Jato) is an ongoing criminal investigation being carried out by the Federal Police of Brazil, Curitiba Branch, and judicially commanded by Judge Sérgio Moro since March 17, 2014. Initially a money laundering investigation, it has expanded to cover allegations of corruption at the state-controlled oil company Petrobras, where executives allegedly accepted bribes in return for awarding contracts to construction firms at inflated prices.” (Wiki, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Car\\_Wash](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Car_Wash))

The following is the English translation reprinted from our comrades of the Grupo de Trabalhadores Revolucionários (Revolutionary Workers Group of Brazil: RWG-BR):

## Brazil: General strike of day 28-4

The union centrals met and reached an agreement to call a general strike day for April 28.

The strike is against the Reform of the Social Security, Labor Reform and outsourcing, government measures that attack hard the rights of the workers.

Brazil has been hit hard by the global crisis of capitalism with a great recession, and workers are being heavily attacked.

The global crisis of capitalism has led to major attacks on workers’ rights worldwide, as well as to inter-imperialist disputes, the largest being between the US /EU blocs and the imperialist bloc of China / Russia.

The PT ruled Brazil for more than 13 years in alliance with sectors of the bourgeoisie, applying neoliberal policies in the country. The main project of the PT was the rapprochement with Chinese imperialism and the BRICS, which is now being dismantled by the “Car Wash” operation of the Federal Police. Everyone who has ruled over the last 15 years, from the PT to the PMDB, which currently governs the country, is being accused of corruption by the “Car Wash” investigation. Even parliamentarians of the PSDB, that were opposition to Dilma and integrate today the government Temer, are denounced in the operation of the federal police.

Proponents of the “Car Wash” investigation say the operation is related to the corruption of the PT government at Petrobras and that this corruption is what caused the economic crisis in the country. But the “Car Wash” investigation was not the end of the corruption, which is an inherent part of the capitalist system and the relation of the bourgeoisie to the state. And neither was the economic crisis caused by the PT, but by the global crisis of capitalism that bogged down in 2008 and today reaches the whole world.

*Cont. from pg. 20 Brazil General Strike...*

The PT in 2009 delivered billions of Reals (R\$) to save the big companies and banks. The slaughterhouses alone, now involved in allegations of fraud in the Federal Police's "Spoiled Meat" operation, received R\$10 billion from the BNDES (the Brazilian Development Bank). Additional billions of R\$ were granted to various sectors of private enterprise. The government soon began to charge the workers' the bill with the austerity measures. And Dilma already announced the need for the Pension Reform before the impeachment.

The era of hefty credits and commodity sales to China were over, and the right wing seized the moment of popular dissatisfaction with austerity measures for parliamentary and legal maneuvering that led to Dilma's impeachment.

Obviously, the economic crisis did not end with the fall of the PT, and the bourgeoisie and the media who defend the "Car Wash" against "corruption" say that pension reforms are key to getting the country out of the crisis. The current government is struggling to approve reforms knowing that this is critical to staying in power.

The PT says there was a coup in the country. But Brazil had (1964) already suffered a coup and knows what it means, with tanks on the streets and repression of workers and youth. The impeachment of Dilma was a maneuver inside the parliament, a "blow" that the PT suffered from its own allies. The coup narrative of the PT demobilized the working class, leaving them unprepared for a real blow.

As already mentioned, the current government is also involved in the corruption scandals and applying the same measures of attack to the workers that weakened Dilma and the PT. Supported by "Car Wash" and the government's low popularity, the extreme right is growing. Reactionary sectors such as the police have held "strikes" and demonstrations, unsatisfied with the crisis situation, although the solution for them has nothing to do with the interests of the working class. The PT continues with its alliances with the bourgeoisie and the party of the "Car Wash," defending Lula and "democracy."



*Brazil, June 2017, "When injustice becomes routine, revolution must become a duty." (Photo by Michael Fox)*

Workers' dissatisfaction with unemployment, back pay, inflation, withdrawal of rights and corruption is increasing. The trade union centrals that call for a general strike day are the same ones that have demobilized and undermined indefinite strikes of several categories.

The union bureaucracy was pressured and called the General Strike, because they run the risk of losing total credibility before the workers. While bureaucratic leadership dismantles strikes and boycotts any single-front initiative and independent working class organization, they guarantee a one-day strike on a Friday, ensuring it does not extend beyond 24 hours.

The main trade union center, the CUT, is linked to the interests of the trade union bureaucracy and the PT, with its alliances with the bourgeoisie, in the interest of defending Lula from "Car Wash" and bourgeois "democracy." It is necessary that the workers break with the CUT and the PT and the bureaucracies of the other central federations: Força sindical, UGT, etc.

The general strike is a struggle against the bourgeoisie and the government, which react with strong repression to defend their interests. Workers need independent organization, a united front that unites and strengthens these organi-

zations, committees by workplace, and self-advocacy committees. The independent organization of the rank-and-file is necessary so that the workers can advance their struggle and not be subordinated to the interests of the union bureaucracy and the central federations.

The way out of the crisis for the working class is the struggle against the bourgeoisie and capital, with independent organizations and a revolutionary party for a true workers' government. The 13 years of Popular Front rule have demonstrated that alliances with the bourgeoisie and a reformist program do not represent the interests of the working class. The struggle against the current government and the growth of the right and extreme right needs to be carried through with total class independence. As for Brazilian workers, it is no alternative to American imperialism to align with Chinese imperialism. Today we see the left divide between the defense of one imperialist bloc or another, like the Stalinist and "RT socialists" (who repeat the propaganda of the media linked to the Russian government: Russia Today) defending the Syrian dictator against the people's struggle and cheating the struggles of workers around the world.

## International Labor Defense

***An Injury to One is an Injury to All!***  
***For International Working Class Defense of All Class War Prisoners***  
***and Victims of Capitalist State Repression!***

The CWG stands for the non-sectarian working class defense of class war prisoners and all the oppressed based upon the old Wobbly principle that "An Injury to One is an Injury to All!"

We place no faith in the capitalist courts, government agencies or labor boards to achieve justice. We call for the united International Working Class in alliance with the oppressed to come to the defense of all victims of capitalist state repression with class struggle methods. This means not only union resolutions but mass labor mobilizations and political strikes.

### **Protesters Facing 75 Years: Release All J20 Protesters, Drop All Charges Immediately!**

214 anti-Trump protesters were arrested on January 20, 2017 in Washington, DC and who now face eight felony charges each with penalties up to 75 years in prison.



An Office of Police Complaints

(Photo: Washington Post)

report "described police conduct on Inauguration Day as violent, indiscriminate and in violation of their Standard Operating Procedures. The report has been followed by a civil lawsuit filed by the DC ACLU, asserting that the police committed several human rights violations, including sexual assault against arrested protestors as a punitive measure." Clearly, the Metropolitan Police feel free to use sexual assault as a terror weapon a la the Ustasas in the Yugoslavian war of capitalist restoration in the 1990s.

This shows that civilian review boards are not working, as usual (it has become a rule of historical sociology that they defend no one but police);

We demand rescinding the police records and felony convictions of those unjustly charged for political repression purposes, such as Dane Powell. Powell was arrested a day after J20 based on video of his role in aiding elderly and children to get medical assistance after being brutally tear gassed by the Police. Powell

was coerced under threat of 75 years in federal prison into accepting a four month sentence plea deal. This is the state's goal: automatic felony records for as many of

the arrestees as

possible via plea deals. The first trial is scheduled for Nov. 20th. We demand all charges be dropped immediately! We will vigilantly watch and continually expose the so-called congressional "resistance" to Trump for any sign they are willing to actually resist such repression authored by the bourgeois state they support.

Al Jazeera reports "at least 18 states are now considering 30-plus bills designed to curb protests by introducing increasingly severe penalties for demonstrators." These are a direct attack on the democratic rights of freedom of speech and assembly and will also be aimed in the future at a resurgent working class that engages in strike actions.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/05/anti-trump-protesters-facing-decades-bars-170522063956218.html>

<http://defendj20resistance.org/>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/06/facing-75-years-prison-170629085740479.html>

## Chinese Capitalist State Swoops on Labor Conditions Investigators at Trump Shoes Plant



*Huajian shoe factory, southern China  
(Photo: Greg Baker/AFP/Getty Images)*

Hua Haifeng, Su Heng and Li Zhao, working on behalf of the advocacy group China Labor Watch, infiltrated the Huajian Group slave labor shoe factory that makes Ivanka Trump shoes, Marc Fisher and Kendall+Kylie brands. The three activists were disappeared by the Chinese Communist Party leadership of the capitalist restorationist state. Was a deal cut in Mar Largo? Hua and two others have since been released on bail even though their trial date and the charges against them have not been announced. Former G.W. Bush speechwriter and Atlantic Monthly columnist David Frum says every Trump policy, however bizarre the appearances, can be explained by derived advantage for brand Trump. Hua and his co-workers discovered the Huajian plants pay below the minimum wage and crush their workers under 18-hour workdays.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/30/business/labor-activist-detained-ivanka-trump-factory.html>

<http://www.chinalaborwatch.org/news-cast/624>

<http://money.cnn.com/2017/07/11/news/china-factory-activist-hua-haifeng-interview/index.html>

<http://money.cnn.com/2017/06/28/news/china-activists-released-bail/?iid=EL>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/10/business/china-labor-ivanka-trump-shoes.html>



## Free Khitam Saafin! Free Khalida Jarrar & the twelve other Palestinian legislators!



Khalida Jarrar

(Photo: Nedal Eshtayah/APA images)

Khitam Saafin, the president of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees and Palestinian activist was jailed by Israel pursuant to an order promulgated on July 9 by the occupation military commander of the West Bank. She was ordered held for the nominal 3-months "Administrative Detention," which state representatives can renew indefinitely.

The farce of Zionist democracy is exposed yet again. There is no room for Palestinians to have democratic self-determination in any arrangement with Zionism, be it two-state or one state. Zionism will not tolerate even an obsequious capitalist semi-colonial Palestine with contiguous territory.

Khalida Jarrar, arrested on July 2nd, received 6-months Administrative Detention. She joins twelve other Palestinian Legislators in Israeli prisons. This would be a farce if it were not so ghastly. Charged with being a terrorist by virtue of her ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation Of Palestine, she can hardly be either a Legislator or a terrorist when spending most of her time locked up. Khalida was only released in June, 2016 after a 15 month stretch. We demand her immediate release and the dropping of the politically motivated charges!

Our defense of Khalida Jarrar is not to be mistaken for an uncritical defense of the Palestinian Authority, which is a bourgeois parliament we give no political support. We are defending her as a representative of a national liberation struggle and as a public face of the many unnamed fighters and ordinary Palestinian civilians who are daily victimized by Zionist state forces. We also call readers attention to the attempt by two Democratic Party U.S. Senators, Schumer and Gillebrand (New York) to make the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement illegal. These two are alleged "resistance" to Trump.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/07/israel-sentences-khalida-jarrar-months-pris->

[on-170713043540104.html](http://on-170713043540104.html)

<http://samidoun.net/2017/07/free-khalida-jarrar-and-khitam-saafin-international-state-ments-urge-solidarity/>

<http://samidoun.net/category/campaigns/khalida-jarrar/>

<https://www.change.org/p/israeli-occupation-forces-free-khalida-jarrar-and-khitam-saafin-now>

## Drop All Charges Against Louis Hunter and Against All Black Lives Matter Protestors!



Facing felony charges and 10 years in prison, [Louis Hunter](#), the cousin of Philandro Castile was charged for his involvement in protests on I-94 last summer that were seeking justice for Philandro Castile. In a fairly obvious attempt to silence the families of the victims of racist police murder and violence, Hunter is being singled out and framed for allegedly engaging in "second-degree riot with a dangerous weapon" after items were thrown at police during the protest. **Approximately 20 other protesters charged have rejected plea deals, bravely standing in solidarity with Hunter demanding that his charges be dropped.**

The murdering cop, Jeronimo Yanez, will not be serving any jail time and even got a \$45K severance payout.

The capitalist state has been increasingly moving in the direction of *de facto* outlawing protests when they cannot just contain them through "Protest Zones". These repressive laws and targeting of activists today will be wielded as a weapon in the hands of the state to suppress a resurgent workers movement tomorrow. **The defense of Black Lives Matter is the defense of the entire working class!**

<https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/drop-the-charges-louis-hunter/>

## Drop All Charges Against Jessica Reznicek and Ruby Montoya!



Jessica Reznicek (left) and Ruby Montoya (right) (Photo: Democracy Now)

Catholic Worker members Jessica Reznicek and Ruby Montoya have been charged for allegedly damaging the Iowa Utilities Board sign at a press conference about the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) on July 24th. These two activists have a long history of civil disobedience in the pursuit of environmental justice and fighting government and state collusion with polluters. They were each held on a \$1000 bond. The DAPL transports 450,000 barrels of Bakken crude oil daily and has a 520,000 barrel/day capacity. This is oil no one needs except for purposes of maintaining a monopoly of supply. The CWG demands that all charges be dropped immediately against these two activists and all anti-DAPL protesters!

Reznicek stated: *"The Dakota Access Pipeline is an issue that affects this entire nation and the people that are subject to its rule. With DAPL, we have seen incredible issues regarding the rule of law, indigenous sovereignty, land seizures, state-sanctioned brutality, as well as corporate protections and pardons for their wrongdoings. To all those that continue to be subjected to the government's injustices, we humbly stand with you, and we ask now that you stand with us."*

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2017/07/24/dakota-access-protesters-claim-responsibility-pipeline-sabotage/504136001/>



## What we Fight For

### We fight to overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labour of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of “nature” and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism’s wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

### We fight for Socialism

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism – a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only North Korea survives as a degenerated workers state. We unconditionally defend the DPRK against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of a world socialist revolution.

### We fight to defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism’s continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual “freedom” and “equality”. It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary class-consciousness.

### We fight for a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeoisie and its agents condemn the Marxist party as totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a party, armed with a transitional program, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers’ power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionize every barrier put in the path to their victorious revolution.

### We fight for Communism

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made “fair” for all, that nature can be “conserved”, that socialism and communism are “dead”, we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution, the Third Communist International until 1924, and the revolutionary Fourth International up to its collapse into centrism, with the closing of the International Center. We fight to build a new Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

**Join us: Where overthrowing capitalism is all in a days work !!!**

*“No one could have prevented the Anarchists after the conquest of power from establishing the sort of regime they deem necessary, assuming, of course, that their program is realizable. But the Anarchist leaders themselves lost faith in it. They hid from power not because they are against “every kind of dictatorship” – in actuality, grumbling and whining, they supported and still support the dictatorship of Stalin-Negrin – but because they completely lost their principles and courage, if they ever had any. They were afraid of everything: “isolation,” “involvement,” “fascism.” They were afraid of France and England. More than anything these phrasemongers feared the revolutionary masses.*

*The renunciation of the conquest of power inevitably throws every workers’ organization into the swamp of reformism and turns it into a toy of the bourgeoisie; it cannot be otherwise in view of the class structure of society. In opposing the goal, the conquest of power, the Anarchists could not in the end fail to oppose the means, the revolution....” - Leon Trotsky, The Lessons of Spain: The Last Warning (1937)*

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Class War (Paper of the CWG-US)

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*Integrating the RWG (Zim), RWG (BR), CWG (A/NZ), CWG (USA)*

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